100% Perfect Girl

VOL.5 CH. 1

EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM IS BEAUTIFUL.
HIS FOREHEAD...
HIS HAIR...
HIS SHOULDERS...
MY HEART POUNDS.
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO EXPLODE.
HIS LIPS...
HIS CARESSES...
DID THEY ALWAYS FEEL THIS WAY?
NO, THIS IS DIFFERENT.
NOTHING FELT LIKE THIS...
NOT THIS INTENSE...

I CAN'T STOP SHAKING!
I FEEL AS IF A BRILLIANT STREAM OF ELECTRICITY WERE EXPLODING AND PULSING LOUDLY WITHIN ME.
TINY, TICKLISH SENSATIONS SHOOT FREELY UNDER MY SKIN.
GENTLY...
YET ENOUGH TO ALMOST DRIVE ME CRAZY...

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-!
WOOSH
HEY, HEY. THIS IS DANGEROUS, DANGEROUS.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME TO STOP, THEN DO SO WHILE I STILL CAN.
SIGH
OTHERWISE, I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR I'LL GO.
...
CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY THAT I HAVE STRONG WILLPOWER.
YOU'RE TOO OFF YOUR GUARD, YOUNG LADY. DON'T YOU THINK SO?

HE'S SO LOVELY.
IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY.
I WANT HIM TO HOLD ME TIGHT ENOUGH TO ALMOST SHATTER ME.
AS IF WE WON'T SEPARATE UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD...
I--
WANT THIS MAN TO BE MINE.

I...
TWICH
I WON'T ATTACK YOU. I WON'T.
DON'T BE NERVOUS.
!
BLUSH
SILLY, I MEAN...
MAN, I'M SUCH A GENTLEMAN~.
IT'S OKAY TO ATTACK ME THOUGH-!!!
I'LL GET GOING NOW...

JAY?
THAT'S... SO MEAN. YOU GOT ME TO TELL YOU HOW I FELT...
AND IF YOU STILL WALK AWAY JUST LIKE THAT...
...
W, WAIT... DOES THIS MEAN...
S...SO... THIS MEANS... AN...
THIS MEANS... "AREN'T I TOO HOT TO LEAVE ALONE?"
OKAY...???
IS SHE IMPLYING OKAY...?
J...
SWISH-

LUBDUB
LUBDUB
LUBDUB
LUBDUB
LUBDUB
LUBDUB
LUBDUB
LUBDUB
LUBDUB
LUBDUB
LUBDUB
LUBDUB
SWISH-
BAM BAM BAM
J!

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I CAN PLAY HARD TO GET TOO.
YOU THOUGHT I WAS AN ANIMAL THAT WOULD JUMP YOU ANY TIME AS LONG AS YOU SAY OKAY?
JI
JUST KIDDING.
I'VE WAITED TILL NOW
I DOUBT YOU CAN APPRECIATE HOW MUCH SUPER-HUMAN PATIENCE IT REQUIRED
SO. I CAN WAIT A LITTLE MORE.
I WANT TO DO THIS RIGHT
SO THAT IT'LL MAKE UP FOR ALL THE HARD TIMES YOU WENT THROUGH.

LET'S GET MARRIED.
AS SOON AS THE SUN COMES UP TOMORROW MORNING

BOOM
C.. COM-MAND-ER...
SAMEDI! ARE YOU INJURED?!
I.. I'M ALRIGHT
HOW ABOUT TEAM B?
THE TEAM'S MOSTLY DOWN.
THE HOSTILES HIDING OUTSIDE WERE A LOT MORE THAN WE EXPECTED.
... SOMETHING WENT BADLY WRONG.

YOU THINK THIS WAS JUST A STING GONE BAD?
NO. WE WALTZED RIGHT INTO A TRAP, JUST LIKE CLOCKWORK.
BENJAMIN, YOU'RE DEAD WHEN I GET BACK!!
LUCKILY, WE CAUGHT ONE OF THEM ALIVE.
BANG
IF OUR PLANS LEAKED, WE'LL FIND OUT WHO THE RAT WAS.
HAAH..
RETREAT!
MINIMIZE THE CASUALTIES AND RETURN TO THE HEADQUARTERS.

BANG
BANG
BANG

ONE BAD
TURN
DESERVES
ANOTHER!
BANG!

KWAM
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?!

WHAT?
SAY IT AGAIN, YOU SON OF A BITCH!
HOW DARE A BASTARD LIKE YOU SPEW SUCH ACCUSATIONS ...
SAY YOU'RE LYING, YOU BASTARD!
THEIR CONNECTION WITH THE RUSSIAN MAFIA IS FINALLY OVER, I GUESS.
YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED AND NOW YOU JUST DON'T CARE ANY MORE?

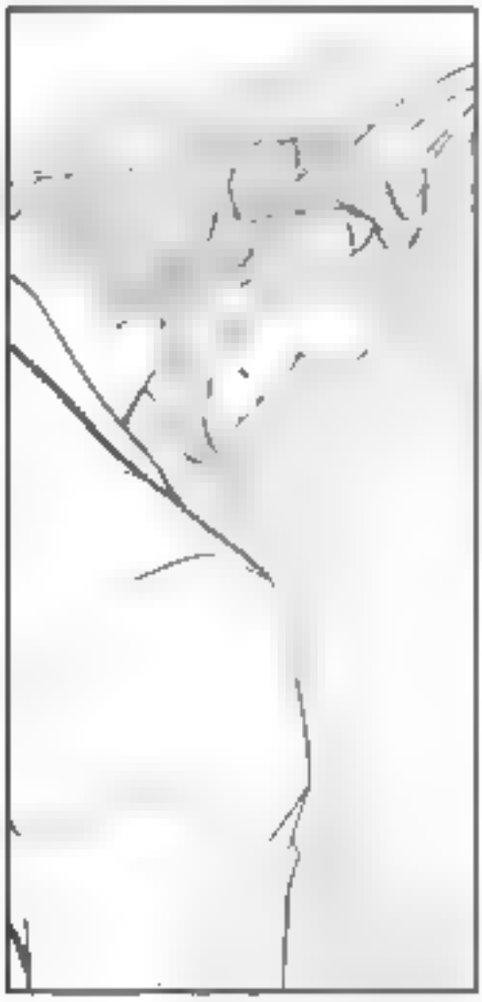
ANDREKOV WON'T LEAVE US IN PEACE IF HE FINDS OUT WE USED HIM.
HE'LL BE AFTER YOUR NECK.
SO MUCH THAT YOU MADE A VERY POWERFUL MAN YOUR ENEMY AND EVEN RISKED YOUR PLACE IN YOUR OWN ORGANIZATION.
YOU MUST'VE FALLEN REAL HARD FOR THAT GIRL..
IT'S TRUE..
I HEARD THIS STRAIGHT FROM MY BOSS, SO IT CAN'T BE WRONG!
HE SAID HE HAD A MOLE INSIDE THE PALACE...
AND THAT THERE'S A WOMAN WHO'D DO ANYTHING FOR HIM.

100% Perfect Girl

VOL.5 CH. 2

WHO DO YOU THINK THAT WOMAN IS?
THE WOMAN WHO WAS WITH MY BOSS?
WE ALL KNOW THAT THE WOMAN YOUR KING KEEPS CAPTIVE AT HIS SIDE IS ACTUALLY MY BOSS' LADY!

PAFF
CRUMP
BEN..
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL THAT CAN BE TRUE...!
WHATEVER THE TRUTH IS, YOU OBVIOUSLY ARE QUITE A SNAKE



YOU LIVE IN THE LIGHT. AND I IN THE SHADOWS. THE ONLY WAY I CAN BRING YOU TO ME IS IF I MAKE YOU ONE OF US.

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PLUNGE YOU INTO MY DARKNESS

I'D NEVER CLAIM TO BE A GOOD PERSON, BUT YOU HAVE YET TO KNOW MY FULL COLORS.
YAKUZA OR MAFIA OR WHATEVER
CAN'T BE A GOOD PERSON YOU KNOW THAT MUCH
HE'S A VICIOUS PERSON BETRAYER EVIL GUY WHO GETS WHAT HE WANTS BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY. EVEN IF THAT WOULD DESTROY THE OBJECT OF HIS DESIRE.
THAT'S THE MAN I AM, YOU SEE?

SQUEEK
THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ROINNE MUST BE THROWN INTO TOTAL CONFUSION ABOUT NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?
HALT
OF COURSE.
THANKS TO YOUR BETRAYAL.
INJECT A TRUTH SERUM!
TO HELL WITH THE DAMN LAWS AND REGULATIONS!

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH SHE INFORMED JS WHAT THE VIOLET FORCE WAS PLANNING.
ASK RICHARDSON. HE WAS THE LIAISON.
AND AL SO LET JS IN ON IRRIA'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION!
I ASK TENOR, TOO
I WANT EVERYONE INVOLVED ARRESTED. RUN A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION EVEN IF IT REQUIRES OUR ENTIRE STAFF RUNNING 24/7.
I WANT DEPOSITIONS SECURED FROM EYE-WITNESSES, TOO.
REVIEW THE CCTV RECORDS AND EVERY SECURITY-RELATED FILE!
SEND THEM TO THE LAB. MOVE IT!
COMB THROUGH EVERYTHING. JUST FIND SOMETHING!
UM, DIRECTOR LOOK AT THIS.
THIS FOOTAGE TROUBLES ME

IT'S THE CCTV IN HIS HIGHNESS'S OFFICE
LADY JAY..
THE GUARDS THOUGHT IT STRANGE THAT SHE CAME INTO HIS OFFICE.
REGARDLESS, THEY LET HER IN BECAUSE IT WAS HER, NOT ANYONE ELSE.
THE SECURITY DETAIL WATCHING THE CAMERA SAID THE GUARDS HAD MEANT TO REPORT THE INCIDENT LATER
IN ANY CASE, THE PROBLEM IS THE FILES SHE ACCESS THIS DAY
TAK TAK
THE RRIA'S CLASSIFIED FILES?

LADY JAY HAS NO RIGHT OR REASON TO ACCESS CLASSIFIED FILES.
WAIT A MINUTE. SHE WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN HOW TO ACCESS THE FILES WITHOUT SOMEONE INSTRUCTING HER IN THE FIRST PLACE...
WHAM!
DAMN IT... DAMN IT.. DAMN IT..!
WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING?! WHAT IS THIS MESS?!
WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO HIM?
HOW'S HE SUPPOSED TO COPE WITH THIS BETRAYAL?!!!!

IT SHOCKS ME EVERYTIME I SEE HER.
SHE LOOKS SO IDENTICAL, IT'S ALMOST CREEPY
WELL---. SHE IS THE BEST IN EUROPE, AFTER ALL,
WHEN IT COMES TO DISGUISE.
RIP
FOOSH

ACTUALLY THIS GIG WAS TOO EASY.
BODY SHAPE, HEIGHT AND EVERYTHING ELSE...
THIS GIRL AND I HAVE PRETTY SIMILAR PHYSIQUES
YOU TOOK CARE OF ALL THE OTHER FORENSIC DETAILS COMPLETELY, YES?
R/P
YOU BET HER FINGERPRINTS ARE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE PALACE
WHAT A SHOCK IT WOULD BE TO THE IDIOTS IN RRIA
IF THEY EVER DISCOVERED THAT THE BUMBLING, SHY AND NAIVE CLERK IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE
WAS ACTUALLY A PROFESSIONAL INFILTRATOR IN DISGUISE.
...WHERE DID YOU FIND SUCH A GIRL?
WHO? KANDY?

SHE WAS ORIGINALLY THE CREAM OF THE CROP AMONG THE MI6 INFORMER TRAINING AS AN AI.
BUT SHE WAS CHARGED WITH DIVULGING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND WAS DISMISSED
PLOP
LATER, SHE WAS SENTENCED TO PRISON. I GOT HER OUT
FWIP
NOW. SHE'S INDISPENSABLE TO MY ORGANIZATION. ROAMING THROUGH THE DANGEROUS REGIONS OF EUROPE, AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA.
DOING ALL KINDS OF ERRANDS AND CONFIDENTIAL TASKS ON MY BEHALF
AH-HA... YOU MEAN. THE DANGEROUS PART OF YOUR BUSINESS.
LET'S JUST CUT THE CRAP!

THE PLAN'S PERFECT
I'VE PREPARED EVERY POSSIBLE DETAIL TO PREVENT THEM FROM UNCOVERING OUR DECEPTION.
BESIDES.
A MAN'S TENDENCY IS TO DOUBT THE THINGS HE WANTS TO BELIEVE AND BELIEVE THE THINGS HE FEARS TO BELIEVE.
THE HUMAN MIND WORKS THAT WAY
KWAM
KAIREN!
WAIT! STOP RIGHT THERE!!
LET GO OF ME!

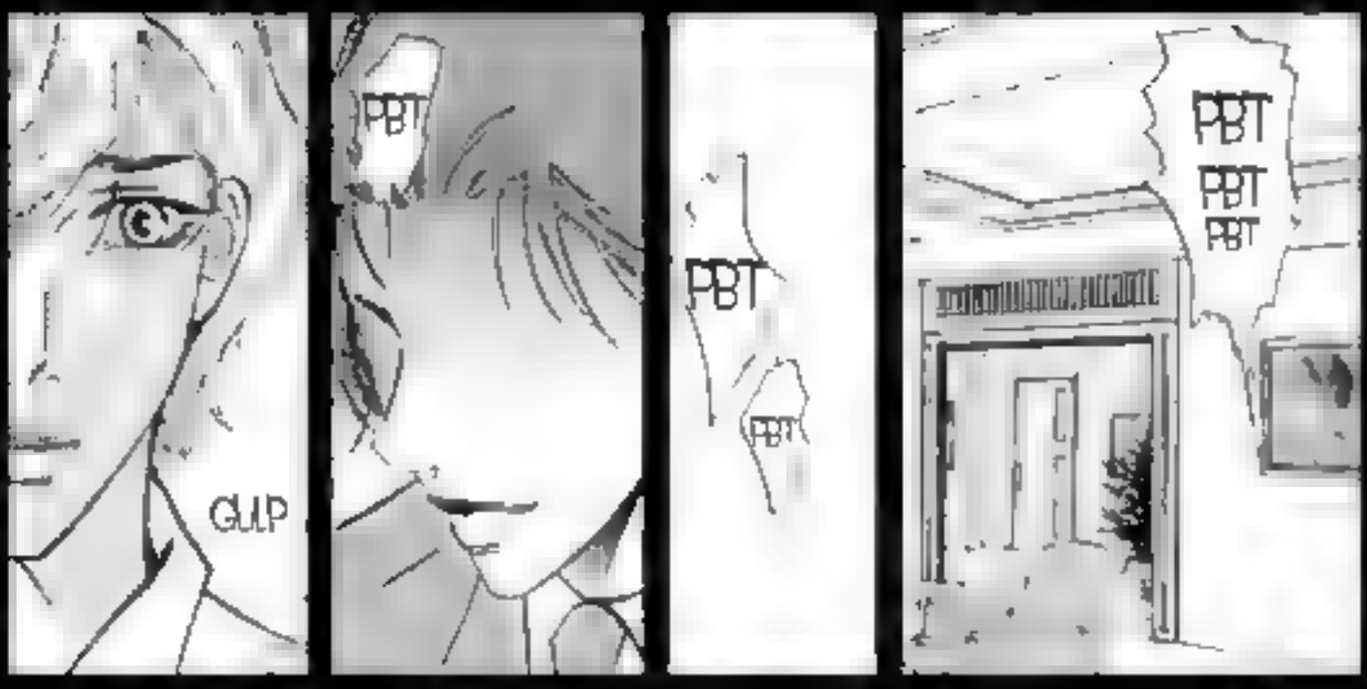
CALM DOWN! THIS ISN'T TIME FOR EMOTIONAL ACTIONS!
YOU WANT ME TO SIT BACK AND WATCH THAT ICKY TRAITOR SIPPING HER TEA?
DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW MANY OF MY MEN WERE KILLED?
GRAB
WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR US TO CONSIDER?!
HIS HIGHNESS...
TO HIM, SHE'S IRREPLACEABLE. WE MUST FIRST BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN !
DAMN IT! WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN NOW...
I'M SCARED TO DEATH RIGHT NOW, KAIREN!!

SHF
SHE WAS LIKE CANCER FROM THE BEGINNING.
CANCER SHOULD BE RUTHLESSLY CUT OUT BENJAMIN.
...YOU MUST CUT IT OUT.
OTHERWISE, IT'LL SPREAD THROUGHOUT YOUR BODY AND KILL YOU...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S PAINFUL, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE AND RECOVER

OUR AGREEMENT ENDS HERE
HOW ABOUT YOU? I IMAGINE YOU'LL JUST HEAD BACK TO NAPLES?
I'LL MAKE IT LOOK THAT WAY ON THE OUTSIDE BUT IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO WHATEVER CHANGES THAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO RAE... I MEAN, JAY,
I'LL BE HIDING SOMEWHERE CLOSE IN ORDER TO WATCH HER MOVEMENTS.
SUCH A DEVOTED HEART--- I WONDER IF I SHOULD BE WISHING YOU LUCK OR..
GOODBYE, THEN.
TIME TO GO OUR OWN SEPARATE WAYS
TAP TAP
I HAVE A QUESTION.
ACTUALLY, THIS PLAN... WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED WITHOUT YOU.
YOUR INFORMATION, YOUR MEN AT THE PORT AND MISS KANDY COMPRISED THE CENTER OF THIS WHOLE SCHEME.
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T HELP ME BECAUSE OF MY CHARMING PERSONALITY
IN FACT, I'M CERTAIN THAT NO AMOUNT OF MONEY I'M CAPABLE OF PAYING WOULD ACTUALLY IMPRESS YOU.
SO, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU REALLY GAINING FROM THIS?

CAN'T I JUST SAY I DID IT BECAUSE I WAS FOND OF YOU?
A BELLE
WANNA DIE?!
ACTUALLY, I THINK I KNOW THE REASON.
HATRED.
ONE-SIDED HATRED THAT THE OTHER PARTY ISN'T EVEN AWARE OF.
WHY?
WHAT THE HELL DID THAT GUY DO TO YOU?
I'M A BAD GUY MYSELF, BUT SUCH POISONOUS HATRED MAKES EVEN ME A BIT NERVOUS IT'S BAD FOR BUSI-NESS

HE'S JUST TOO LOVELY.
JARTE MARX.
WOULDN'T IT MAKE SENSE IF I SAID I JUST DON'T BELIEVE THAT KIND OF GUY SHOULD HAVE IT ALL?



LET'S GO KANDY

OKAY

RIGHT—

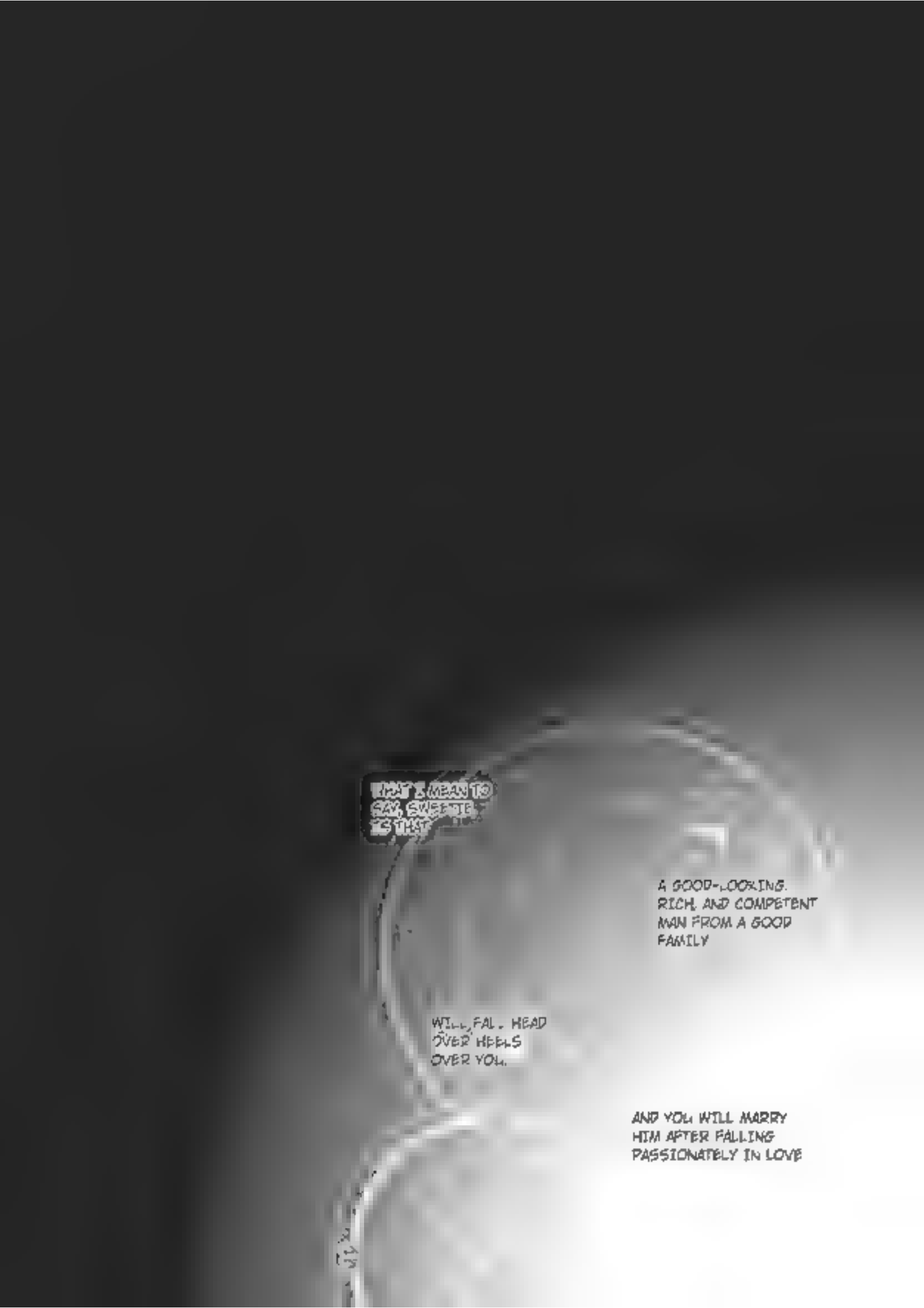
HOW CAN I FORGET...

HIS FACE SHINING
OH SO REGALLY
THE LOVELINESS
NICE TO MEET YOU,
MR CLARENCE
EWAN.
RIGHT
HOW CAN I FORGET...
THAT INDESCRIBABLE
AURA SURROUNDING
HIM----

JUST THINKING ABOUT THAT BRIGHTLY ILLUMINATE AIR OF HAPPINESS MAKES ME SHUDDER. I WANTED TO DESTROY IT...

HEH
HEH HEH
HEH HEH
TEE HEE
HIYAP
SCRUNCH
KAIREN!

WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO KILL SOMEONE.


WHAT I MEAN TO SAY, SWEETIE, IS THAT
A GOOD-LOOKING, RICH, AND COMPETENT MAN FROM A GOOD FAMILY
WILL FALL HEAD OVER HEELS OVER YOU.
AND YOU WILL MARRY HIM AFTER FALLING PASSIONATELY IN LOVE

Tarot cards
3000 WON
IS SHE REALLY A WELL-KNOWN FORTUNE-TELLER ..?
SHE IS!
IN 10 YEARS OF FORTUNE-TELLING, I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH UNBELIEVABLY GOOD FORTUNE ETCHED IN ONE HAND
BUT I HAVE TO READ THE FORTUNE AS IT SAYS, DON'T I?
YOU HAVE GREAT LUCK WITH MEN.
YOU GOTTA PAY ME DOUBLE.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BITCH, YOU GOTTA BUY ME A DONUT!
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
THERE'S A SON GROWING IN YOUR BELLY
I HEARD SHE WAS REALLY GOOD?
COME ON... LOOK AT THE OUTCOME.
THE BABY ALREADY CAME OUT AND THIS IS JUST THE REMAINING FAT!
YOU CHARLATAN!
DAUGHTER
DAUGHTER
RIGHT- WHERE ON EARTH IS SUCH A MAN? ONLY IN ROMANCE NOVELS
HAHA.
I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT THAT READING.
I NEVER TOOK IT SERIOUSLY

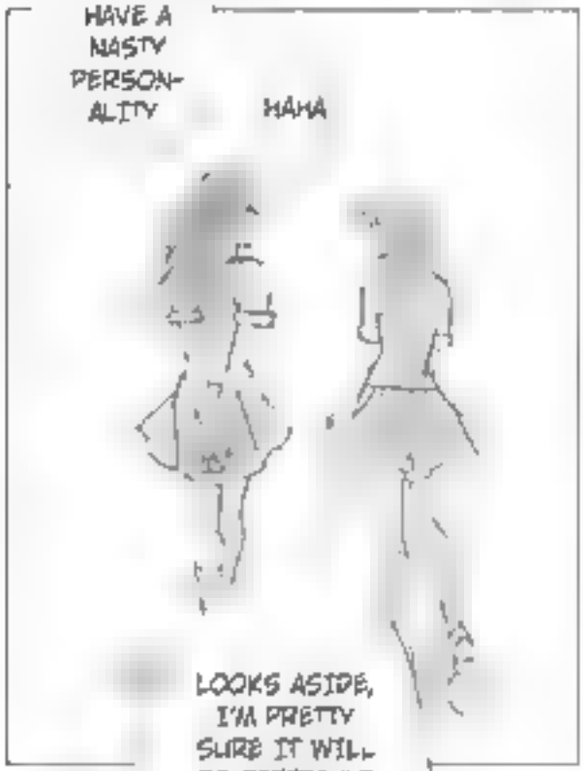
LET'S SAY THIS KIND OF A GREAT GUY REALLY EXISTS, SO WHAT?

I STILL HAVE TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM.

HEY WHO WOULD MIND A HANDSOME, RICH MAN?

I BET THE JERK WILL HAVE A NASTY PERSON-ALITY

HAHA



LOOKS ASIDE, I'M PRETTY SURE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO MEET JUST ONE GUY WHO REALLY CARES FOR ME.

I DIDN'T KNOW THEN, THAT IT WOULD BE YOU.

THAT IT'D BE YOU WHO I'D FALL IN SO MUCH LOVE WITH.

I THOUGHT SUCH
LOVE DIDN'T EXIST
IN THE WORLD.

I THOUGHT IT
COULD NEVER
BE THAT AMAZING.

I THOUGHT
DAYDREAMS WERE
JUST ONE-TIME
THINGS TO LAUGH
ABOUT AND EVERY
PERFECT ROSE OF
HAPPINESS HELD
A HIDDEN THORN.

BUT I—
I'M SO HAPPY
NOW.

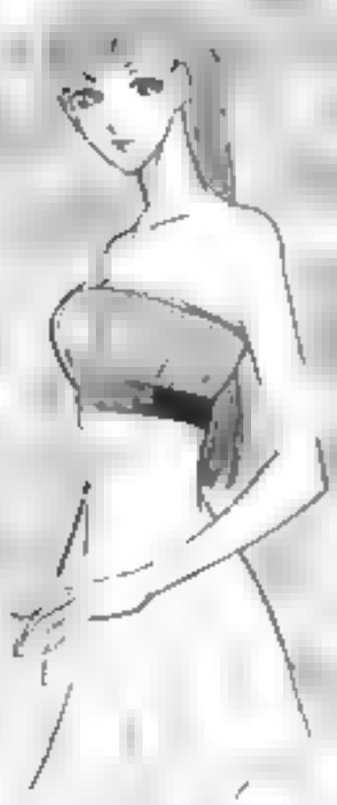
SO, THANK YOU.

FOR EXISTING
IN THE WORLD
AND FOR
FINDING ME.

AND...
FOR LETTING ME TASTE THIS
IMMENSE FEELING OF HAPPINESS.

...AND FOR LETTING
ME LOVE.

THANK YOU.



100% Perfect Girl

VOL.5 CH. 3

OH, HANNAH. DO YOU KNOW WHERE JARTE IS BY ANY CHANCE?
I'M NOT SURE, MADAME.
HAVEN'T SEEN BEN OR KAIREN, EITHER.
SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT
PHEW

CLAK!
JARTE!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE STEPPING OUT FOR A MINUTE...
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HE..

JARTE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

UH, UM.
I.
UH..
I JUST
BUT YOU SAID.
...LET'S GET MARRIED AS SOON AS THE SUN RISES.
IF THERE'S NOTHING ELSE, LEAVE ME
JARTE!
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
OR, ARE YOU UPSET? DID I DO SOMETHING?

WAS I NOT CLEAR ABOUT LEAVING ME ALONE?
THIS CAN'T BE TRUE!

NO, AL. THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE POINTS TO ONE SUSPECT.
LADY JAY MET WITH CALPETTI IN VENICE.
AND THEN, SHE MADE AN UNSCHEDULED RETURN HOME THE VERY NEXT DAY
COINCIDENTALLY ON THAT SAME DAY CALPETTI'S PLAN SWUNG INTO FULL GEAR.
HAHA. I GET IT
I KNOW I'VE BEEN NEGLIGENT IN MY DUTIES
PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER TRIVIAL MATTERS,
BUT IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE ,
LADY JAY IS ALSO THE ONE WHO AIDED ANDREKOV'S GANG ENTER OUR KINGDOM.
I'VE CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION. THE RESULTS INDICATE THAT IT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY SHE WHO RENTED THE LOCATION THAT SERVED AS THEIR SECRET HIDEOUT
THOSE KINDS OF RECORDS CAN EASILY BE FABRICATED!
THAP
AND THIS?! DO YOU THINK THIS WAS FABRICATED, TOO?!

...AND THEN SHE ACCESSED CLASSIFIED FILES.
OTHER EVIDENCE FROM THAT NIGHT INCLUDING THE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE AND FINGERPRINTS CONFIRM HER IDENTITY.
WE'VE OBTAINED FROM THE RIAA ANOTHER VIDEO TAPE OF LADY JAY IN A MEETING WITH CALPETTI'S GOONS.
WE ALSO HAVE SEVERAL EYEWITNESS TESTIMONIES
ARE YOU SAYING THAT'S. JAY?

THIS CAN'T BE! THAT ISN'T HER...
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! THAT'S ONLY...
AN INSIGNIFICANT IMAGE TAKEN FROM BLURRY FOOTAGE...
WE'VE ALREADY ANALYZED THE FOOTAGE.
IT'S NEITHER BEEN MANIPULATED NOR FABRICATED.
CAN YOU BE 100% POSITIVE?
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THERE'S NOT EVEN A CHANCE THAT IT COULD'VE BEEN FABRICATED?
STEPHEN!
YE, YES, SIR!
EVEN IF THERE EXISTED A ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE THAT SOMEONE WAS DISGUISED AS LADY JAY..
SHE STILL WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FOOL OUR COMPUTER-BASED HUMAN RECOGNITION PROGRAM.
TAK
OUR PROGRAM NOT ONLY SCANS THE FACE OF EACH SUBJECT BUT ALSO INDEXES THE MEASUREMENTS OF OTHER BODY PARTS. THE COMPUTER THEN DETERMINES WHETHER THE FORENSIC EVIDENCE COLLECTED AT EACH CRIME SCENE MATCHES THOSE OF THE PERSON ON RECORD.
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
THE KEY INDICATOR IN THIS PROGRAM IS THE EAR THE HUMAN EAR IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO DUPLICATE
TAK

WHEN I CONVERT THE IMAGE TO A 3D MODEL AND UPLOAD IT INTO THE SYSTEM,
AND SUBJECT EACH RELEVANT INDEX FOR COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS..
MR. STEPHEN.
DON'T WORRY. IF YOU JUST FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS.
YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER WILL RETURN HOME SAFELY
BAM
GULP
IT WAS AN IDENTICAL MATCH WITH JAY'S RECORDS.

THE PROGRAM SHOWS A 100% [redacted] THE SUBJECT IS LADY JAY HERSELF

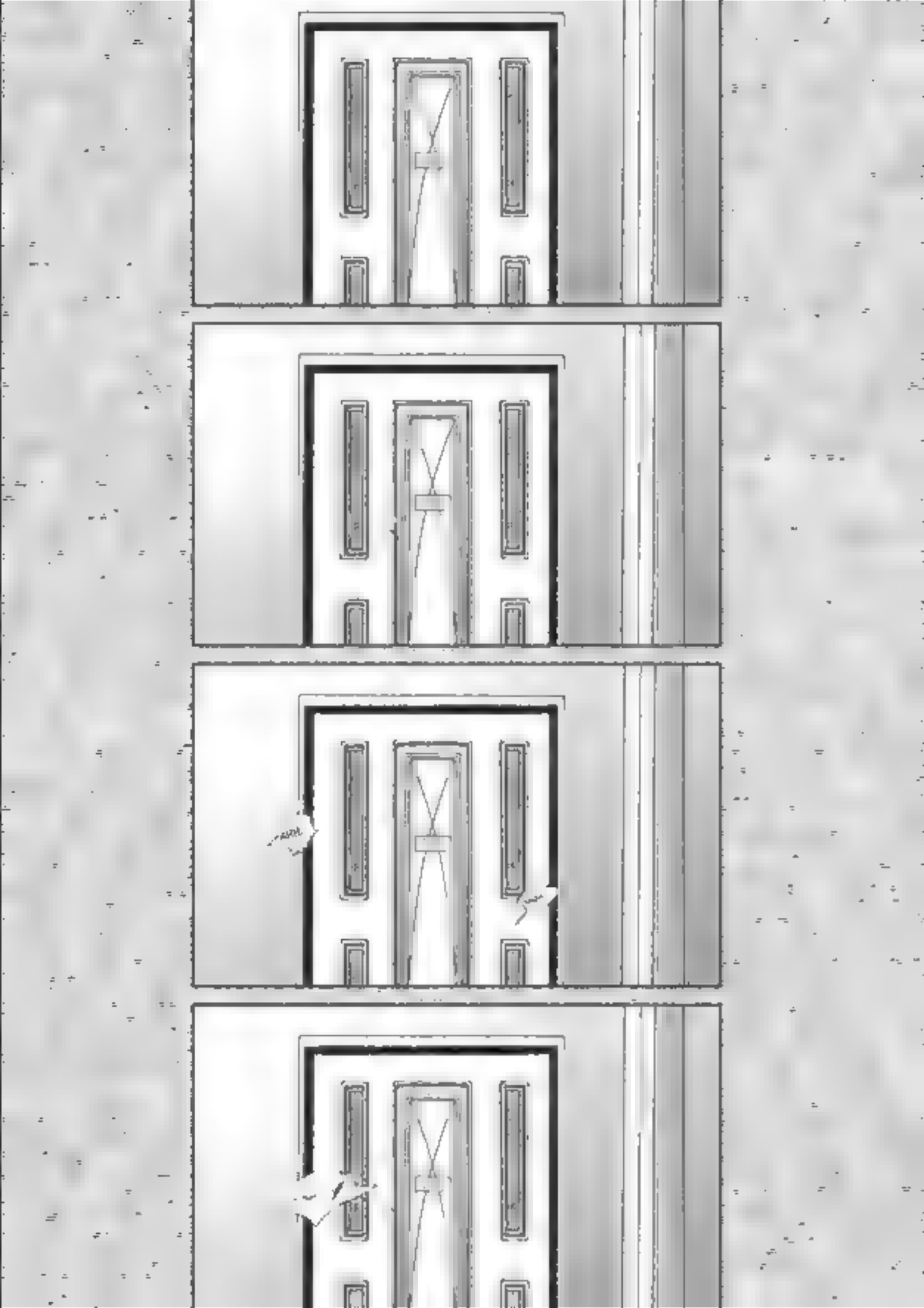
BEEP---

..THERE'S A REASON..
THERE MUST BE A REASON FOR THIS.
SO, FOR NOW, LEAVE THIS MATTER
TO ME..
..UNTIL I GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS
FOR NOW? DID YOU SAY "FOR NOW?" DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON MATTERS SUCH AS THIS?
YOU ARE A KING!!!

.. DON'T EVER FORGET YOU ARE A KING.
WE WOULD SACRIFICE ANYTHING FOR YOU.
EVEN OUR MOST PRECIOUS THINGS.
AFTER ALL, PEOPLE SAY THAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO
AS SUCH, A KING CAN'T ALWAYS DO AS HE PLEASES.
THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN YOU HAVE TO SACRIFICE, TOO!
YOU DOUBT ME?
I ASKED IF YOU DOUBT ME!
HAVE I EVER LET MY PEOPLE DOWN?

DON'T RUSH TO A HASTY CONCLUSION... THAT'S ALL I ASK!
WHATEVER SITUATIONS I CREATE I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM, NO MATTER WHAT THAT MAY REQUIRE!
DON'T YOU HAVE AT LEAST THAT MUCH FAITH IN YOUR KING?!
YOU REALLY CAN'T ACCEPT THIS, CAN YOU?!
KAIREN, NOT THAT...
TAK
LOOK AT THIS!
THIS WAS FOUND ON HOTEL SURVEIL-LANCE VI—

GROPE
GROPE
WHAM



DO I NEED TO HAVE YOU CONFIRM THIS, TOO?
CONFIRM THAT SHE HAD AN EXCELLENT REASON TO BETRAY YOU?!!

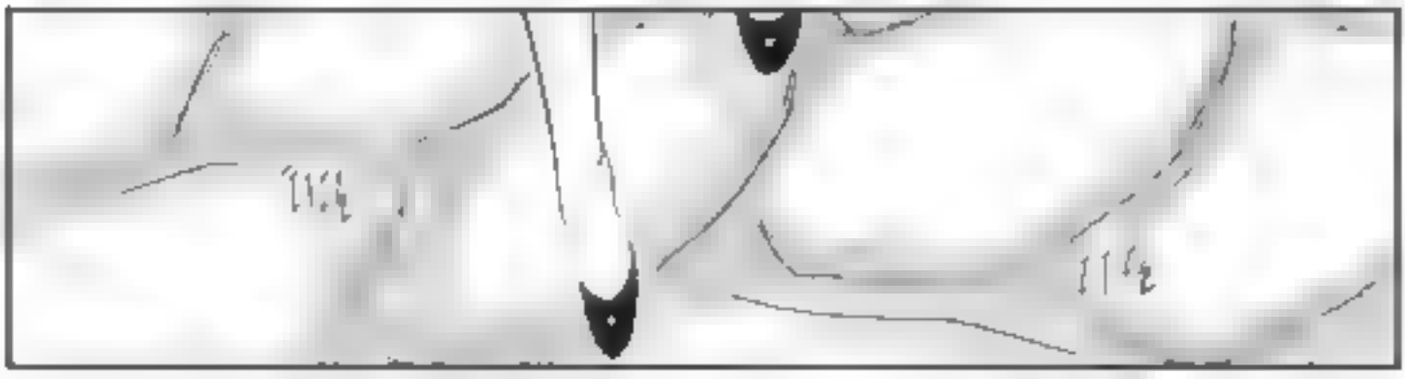
I LOVE YOU.

I DO.

I.....

CAN I LOVE YOU?

EEAACKK!



WHAT WAS THAT? WHY...

I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT LOOK ON JARTE'S FACE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH COLD EYES, SO COLD THAT THEY LOOKED FROZEN INTO DARKNESS.

JARTE, YOU MAY HAVE BEEN COLD TO OTHER PEOPLE AT TIMES...
BUT YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED AT ME LIKE THAT.
NO MATTER HOW ANGRY YOU BECAME
WHY WERE YOU THAT WAY? MAYBE YOU DON'T FEEL FOR ME ANYMORE?
COULD I HAVE DONE SOMETHING WRONG?
HOA, HOA, PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.
JARTE SEEMS A BIT STRANGE, ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE
SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW SEEMS TO BE...

THAT'S A LIE, RIGHT, M'LADY?
PLEASE... PLEASE TELL ME IT'S A LIE!
HOA, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT
KAIREN SAYS YOU'VE BETRAYED HIS HIGHNESS!
TO HELP THAT MAN... THAT BLOND MAFIA DON!
TO SAVE THE MAN YOU LOVE!!
WHAT...?

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST,
LADY JAY.

100% Perfect Girl

VOL.5 CH. 4

WHAT HAPPENS TO LADY JAY NOW?
ROINNE'S NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS ARE STRICT
IF WE GO BY THE BOOK, SHE MOST LIKELY WON'T BE ABLE TO AVOID TRIAL.
WHAT ABOUT THEIR WEDDING?

THINGS HAVE PROGRESSED TOO FAR FOR THAT TO HAPPEN. NOW...
NOT UNLESS HIS MAJESTY WISHES TO TOSS AWAY HIS CROWN.
NONSENSE! THERE'S NO ONE ELSE IN ROINNE WHO CAN BE KING!
...OF COURSE.
...ACTUALLY, THAT'S TRUE ONLY IF... YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MAN OUR SOCIETY HAS BEEN AWARE OF SO FAR.
REGARDLESS, WE'RE NOT EVEN LOVE ANYMORE. OBVIOUSLY, HER FEELINGS ARE FAKE.
NOW, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A WOMAN WHO LOVES ANOTHER MAN, AND WHO HAS BETRAYED YOU FOR THAT MAN.
IF THAT'S THE KIND OF "LOVE" WE'RE REALLY TALKING ABOUT, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

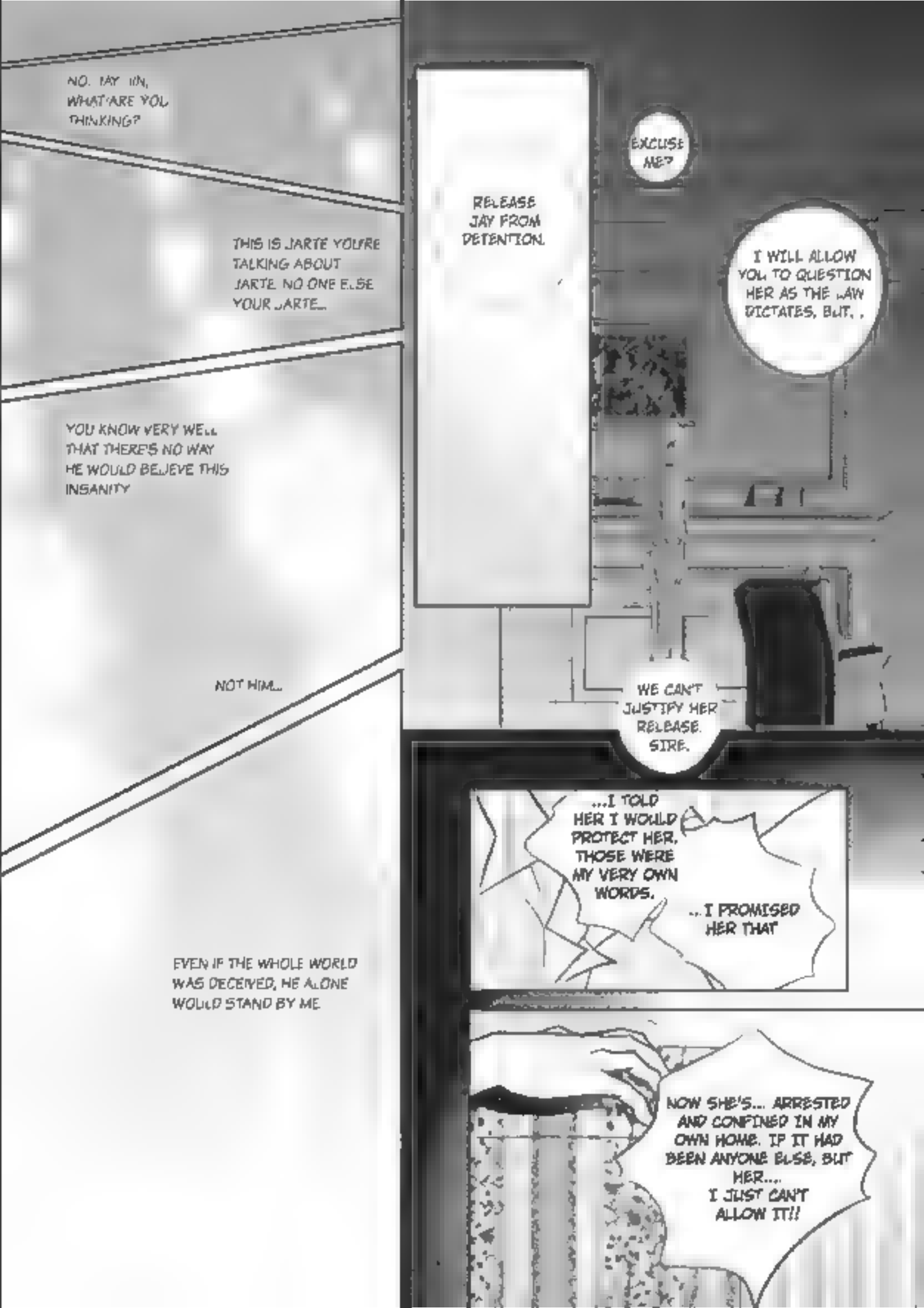
I WON'T CONFESS TO A SINGLE WORD
IN THIS ABSURD STATEMENT!
EVERYTHING WRITTEN IN HERE, DOWN TO THE LAST PERIOD, IS A BIG LIE!
HA-AH...
WE WILL GIVE YOU TIME TO THINK THIS OVER.
WE WILL COME BACK AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES
TAK
DRRIP...

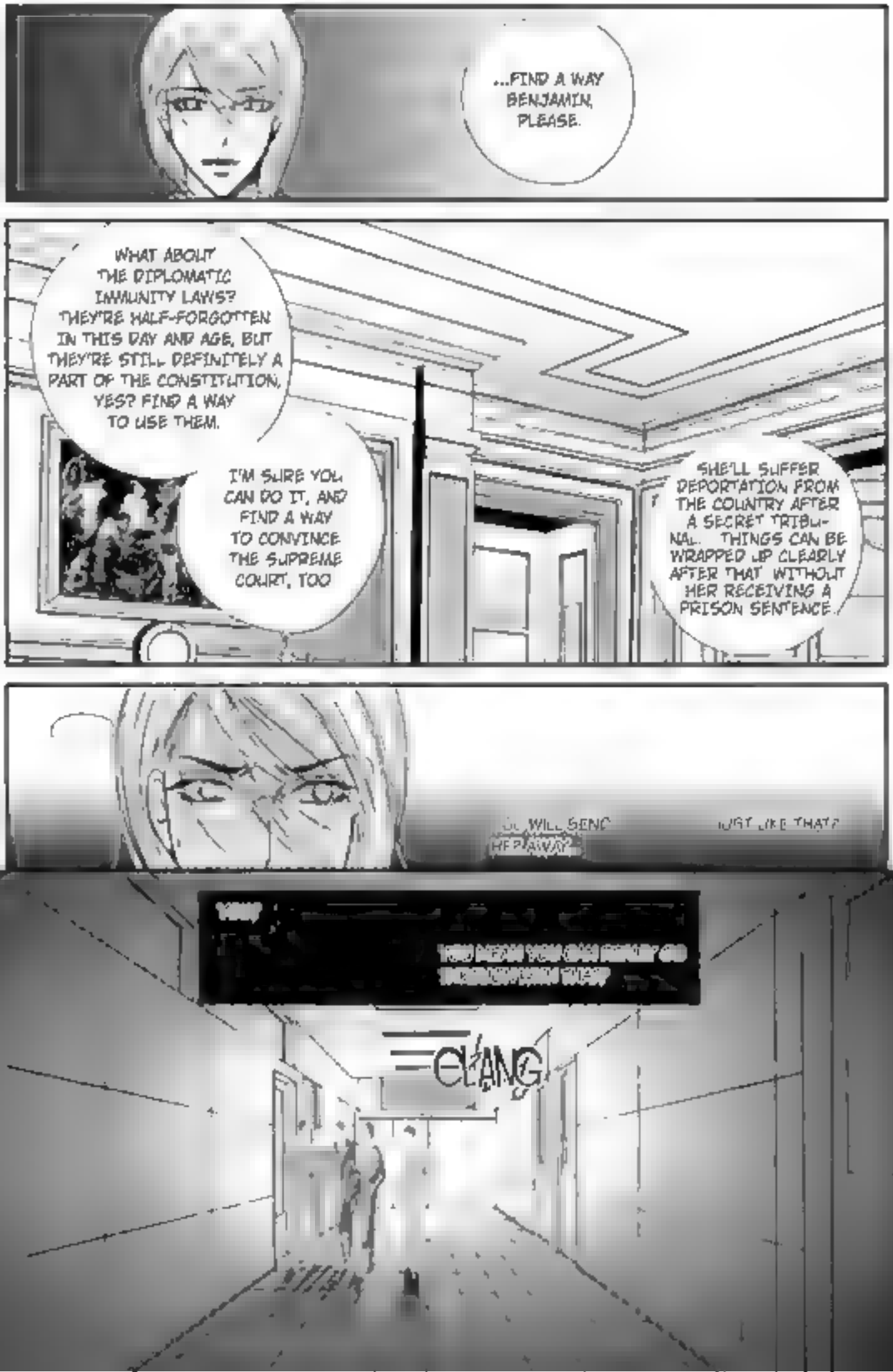
THINGS THAT I HAVEN'T DONE, PEOPLE I'VE NEVER MET, [redacted] BEEN TO...
HOW CAN ALL OF THESE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED?
IT'S LIKE THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS CONSPIRED AGAINST ME
I WISH I COULD JUST LAY MY [redacted] SO THEY CAN SEE THAT I'M TELLING THE TRUTH.
I'M THE VICTIM OF THEIR FALSE ACCUSATIONS! OR AM I GOING CRAZY?
I FEEL SUFFOCATED.
I CAN'T BREATHE.

WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD... WHY?

JARTE DOES HE BELIEVE THIS, TOO?

THIS PREPOSTEROUS LIE?


NO. JAY IN, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
THIS IS JARTE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT JARTE. NO ONE ELSE YOUR JARTE...
YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD BELIEVE THIS INSANITY
NOT HIM...
EVEN IF THE WHOLE WORLD WAS DECEIVED, HE ALONE WOULD STAND BY ME.
RELEASE JAY FROM DETENTION.
EXCUSE ME?
I WILL ALLOW YOU TO QUESTION HER AS THE LAW DICTATES, BUT. .
WE CAN'T JUSTIFY HER RELEASE, SIRE.
...I TOLD HER I WOULD PROTECT HER. THOSE WERE MY VERY OWN WORDS.
.. I PROMISED HER THAT
NOW SHE'S... ARRESTED AND CONFINED IN MY OWN HOME. IF IT HAD BEEN ANYONE ELSE, BUT HER... I JUST CAN'T ALLOW IT!!


...FIND A WAY BENJAMIN, PLEASE.
WHAT ABOUT THE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY LAWS? THEY'RE HALF-FORGOTTEN IN THIS DAY AND AGE, BUT THEY'RE STILL DEFINITELY A PART OF THE CONSTITUTION, YES? FIND A WAY TO USE THEM.
I'M SURE YOU CAN DO IT, AND FIND A WAY TO CONVINCE THE SUPREME COURT, TOO
SHE'LL SUFFER DEPORTATION FROM THE COUNTRY AFTER A SECRET TRIBUNAL. THINGS CAN BE WRAPPED UP CLEARLY AFTER THAT WITHOUT HER RECEIVING A PRISON SENTENCE.
...WILL SEND HER AWAY
JUST LIKE THAT?
CLANG

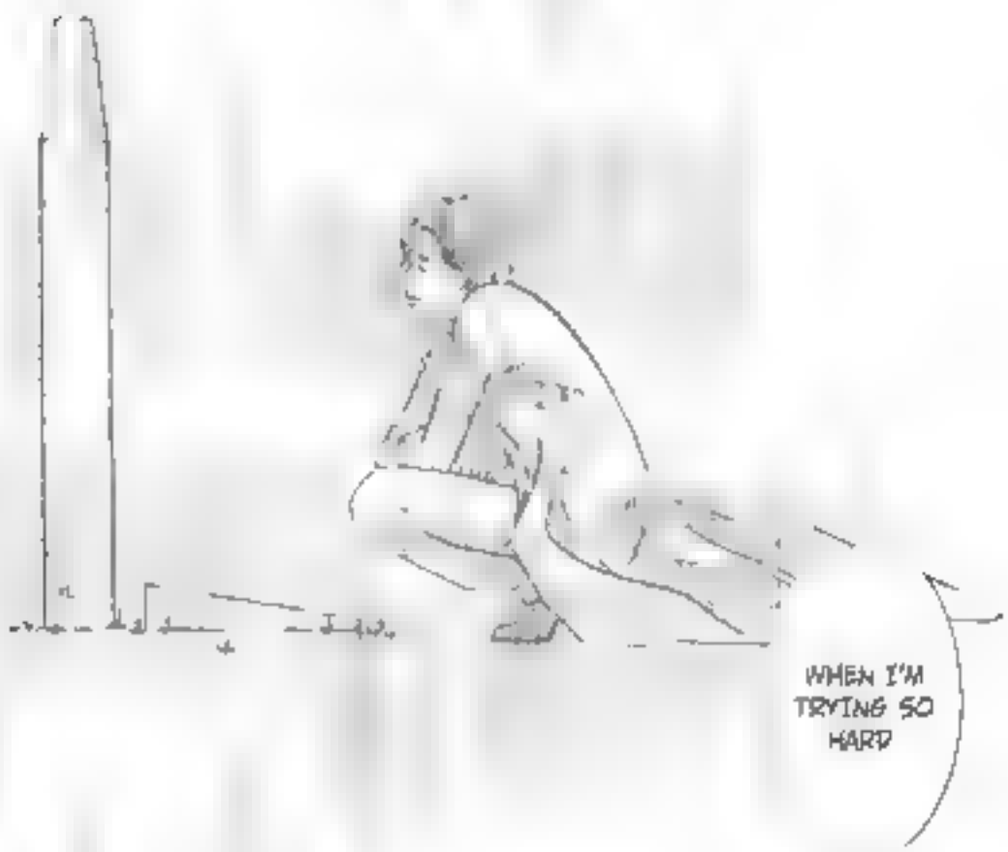
YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR ROOM, M'LADY
DOES THIS MEAN.
YOU ARE FORGIVING HER?

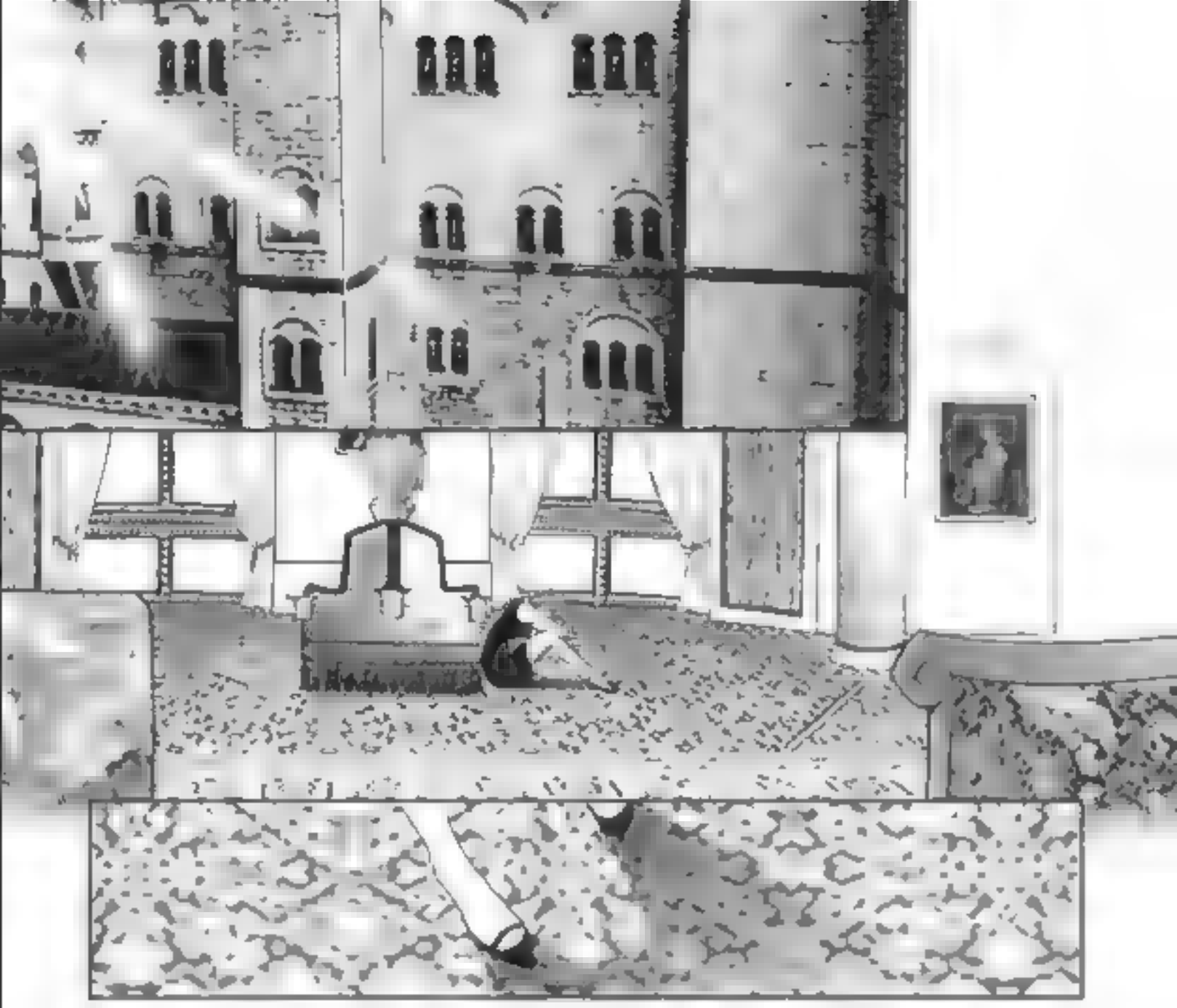
...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
...I HEARD THAT CONFUCIUS, A WISE MAN FROM THE EAST, ONCE SAID:
IF YOU WANT REVENGE, DIG TWO GRAVES.
ONE FOR YOUR ENEMY, THE OTHER FOR

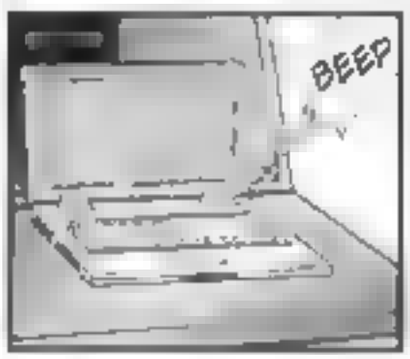
BUT, MY SOUL IS ALREADY BURIED 6 FEET UNDER-GROUND HERE.
POSSIBLY BE
NOW IS THE TIME FOR
SUFFERING, LOSS, AND NEVER-ENDING LONELINESS—
LATE-NIGHT REMORSE...
AND BURNING HATRED TO FILL THOSE LONG, LONG SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.
AND DAYS THAT FEEL AS SUFFOCATING AS THE GRAVE.

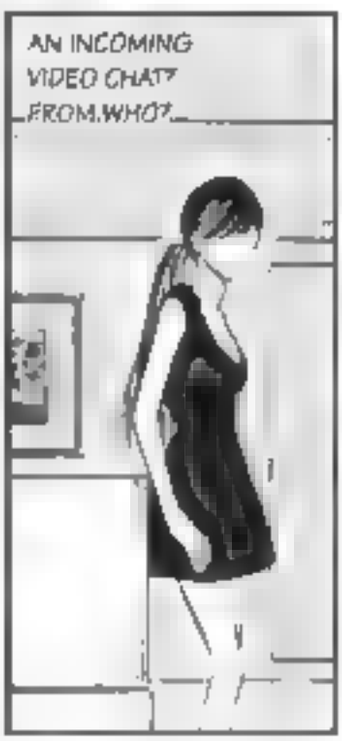
MY GOD. GRETA, YOU MUST BE FURIOUS WITH ME

NO, YOU CAN'T BE






BEEP


AN INCOMING VIDEO CHAT? FROM WHO?

HELLO. MY LUCKY LADY

-!

YOU...?!
I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU ACTUALLY REMEMBER A NOBODY LIKE ME
I'M FLATTERED
I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE MY LUCKY CHARM.
THANKS TO YOU, MY LONG-HELD WISH IS FINALLY GOING TO COME TRUE.

-!
YOU'RE THE ONE!
YOU'RE BEHIND ALL OF THIS!
OH, THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT
WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED, MISSY
I CAN HEAR YOUR HEART POUNDING WITH FEAR EVEN ON THIS END OF THE MONITOR.
WHY DON'T YOU CALM DOWN SO WE CAN TALK?
BECAUSE I--
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST YOU AND THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE

YOU...
HOW DARE YOU?!!!
WHY THE HELL WOULD HE...?!
WHY DO SUCH A TERRIBLE THING?!
OH, MAN— YOU'RE A SPUNKY ONE, AREN'T YOU?
DON'T YOU WANT TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE TO YOUR MAN?
I'M ONLY TRYING TO HELP YOU DO THAT
WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS SIMPLE.
JUST COME TO THE INSTRUCTED LOCATION ALONE.
IF YOU DO, I'LL GIVE YOU THE PROOF YOU NEED TO VINDICATE YOURSELF
HOWEVER, IF YOU COME HERE, THE PRICE FOR THE EVIDENCE.

WILL BE
YOUR
LIFE.

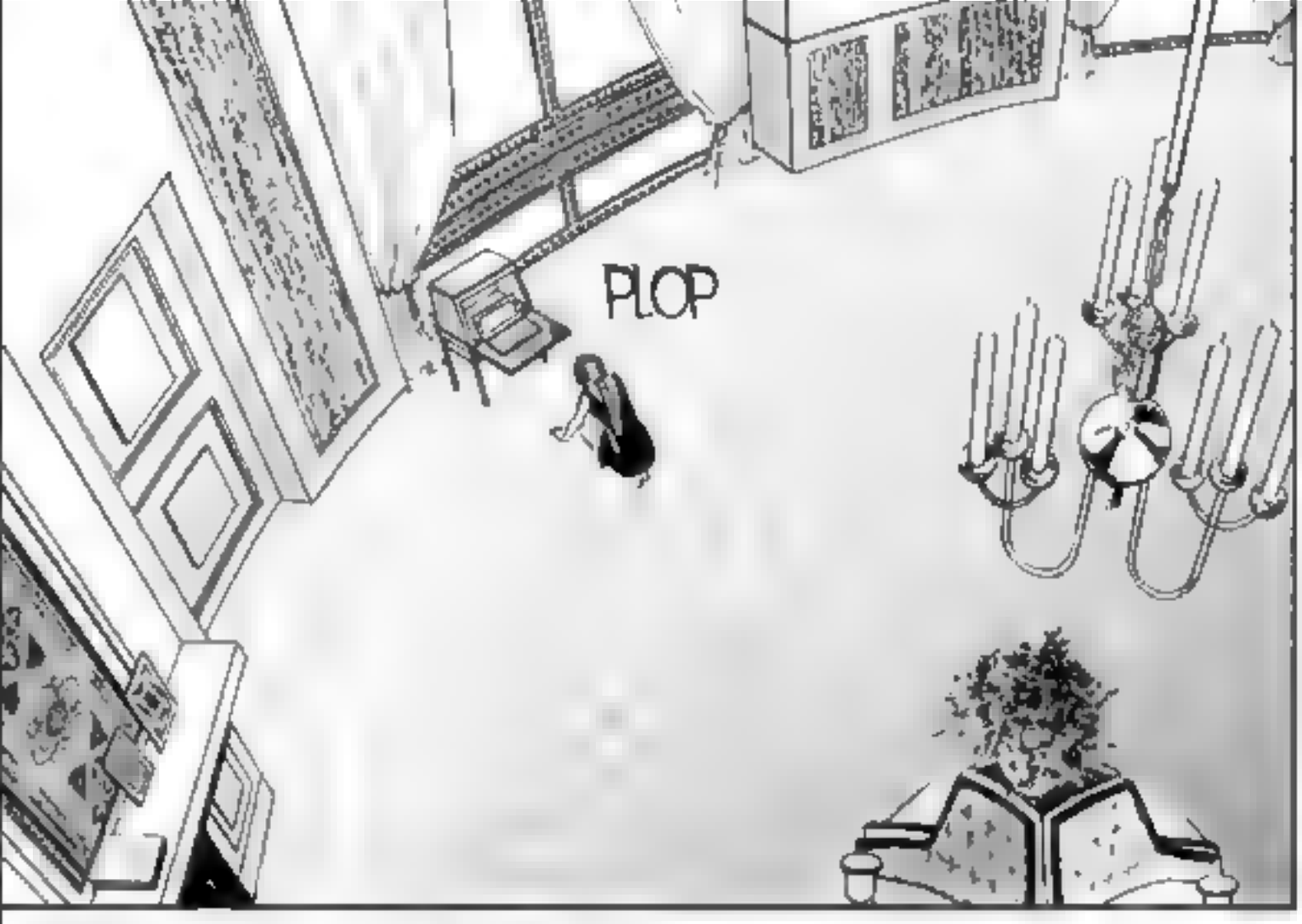
YOU REALLY THINK... I WOULD GO THERE... KNOWING THAT YOU'LL KILL ME?

YOU CAN ALWAYS LIVE ON IN DISGRACE, FORCED INTO EXILE FOREVER SUFFERING THE ACCUSING STARES OF THE MAN WHO LOVES YOU. ABANDONED

I THOUGHT HE REALLY LOVED YOU.
IF HE TRULY LOVES YOU, SHOULDN'T HE BELIEVE YOU IN ANY SITUATION?
SHOULDN'T HE KNOW WITHIN HIS DEEPEST SELF THE SINCERITY OF SUCH A LOVELY BETROTHED AS SHE PLEADS HER INNOCENCE WITH TEARS?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS IF HIS FEELINGS ARE GENUINE, YOU WON'T HAVE TO DIE TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE.
YOU CRAZY BAS-TARD!
PROVE TO ME THE STRENGTH OF YOUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER.

IF YOU SHED THE BLOOD OF OTHERS IN THE PURSUIT OF YOUR OWN HAPPINESS, SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE THE STOMACH TO DO AT LEAST THAT MUCH?
CRINGE
PBT--.
HEY NOW, DON'T BE FRIGHTENED. I'M NOT SUCH A BAD GUY

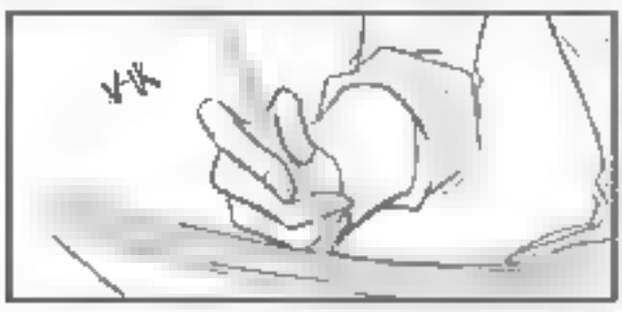
WHY
IT'S FAIR, ISN'T IT?
I GAVE BOTH YOU AND HIM A CHANCE
I'M JUST A PLAYER WHO RELISHES THE GAMBLE.
GOOD LUCK TO YOU, DARLING.
KWAM
HEY...
HEY!
COME BACK, YOU CRAZY BASTARD!
BOOP
NO! NO!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

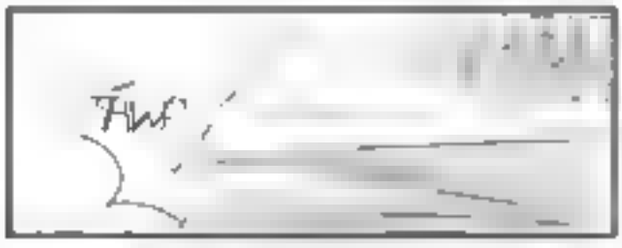

PLOP

BRRRR

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, M'LADY.
YOU CAN'T SEE HIS MAJESTY NOW.
I BEG YOU, BEN, PLEASE.
WHAT YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW ISN'T HELPING!
HIS HIGHNESS IS WORKING HARD TO CLEAN UP THE MESS YOU'VE MADE.
I MUST SEE JARTE RIGHT NOW!

YOU BELIEVE I DID ALL THOSE THINGS, TOO? DON'T YOU?
...
THAT'S
PEOPLE CAN LIE, BUT EVIDENCE DOESN'T
TRUE, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
YOU STILL HAVE TO AT LEAST GIVE ME A CHANCE TO DEFEND MYSELF. DON'T YOU THINK?
EVEN I WANT TO BELIEVE THOSE SOFT EYES PLEADING THEIR INNOCENCE.
I BEG YOU, BEN.


VIK


FWF

VIK
VIK

VIK
VIK

WHM

GRAVITE
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIVE ON IN DISGRACE, FORCED INTO EXILE... FOREVER SUFFERING THE ACCUSING STARES OF THE MAN WHO LOVES YOU. ABANDONED...

YOU'RE WRONG, MISTER
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT
I HAVE NO REASON
TO BE AFRAID?
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT
I HAVE NO REASON
TO DOUBT HIS LOVE?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS,
IF HIS FEELINGS ARE
GENUINE, YOU WON'T
HAVE TO DIE TO PROVE
YOUR
INNOCENCE.
JARTE
JARTE
WOULD...
JARTE
WOULD...

100% Perfect Girl

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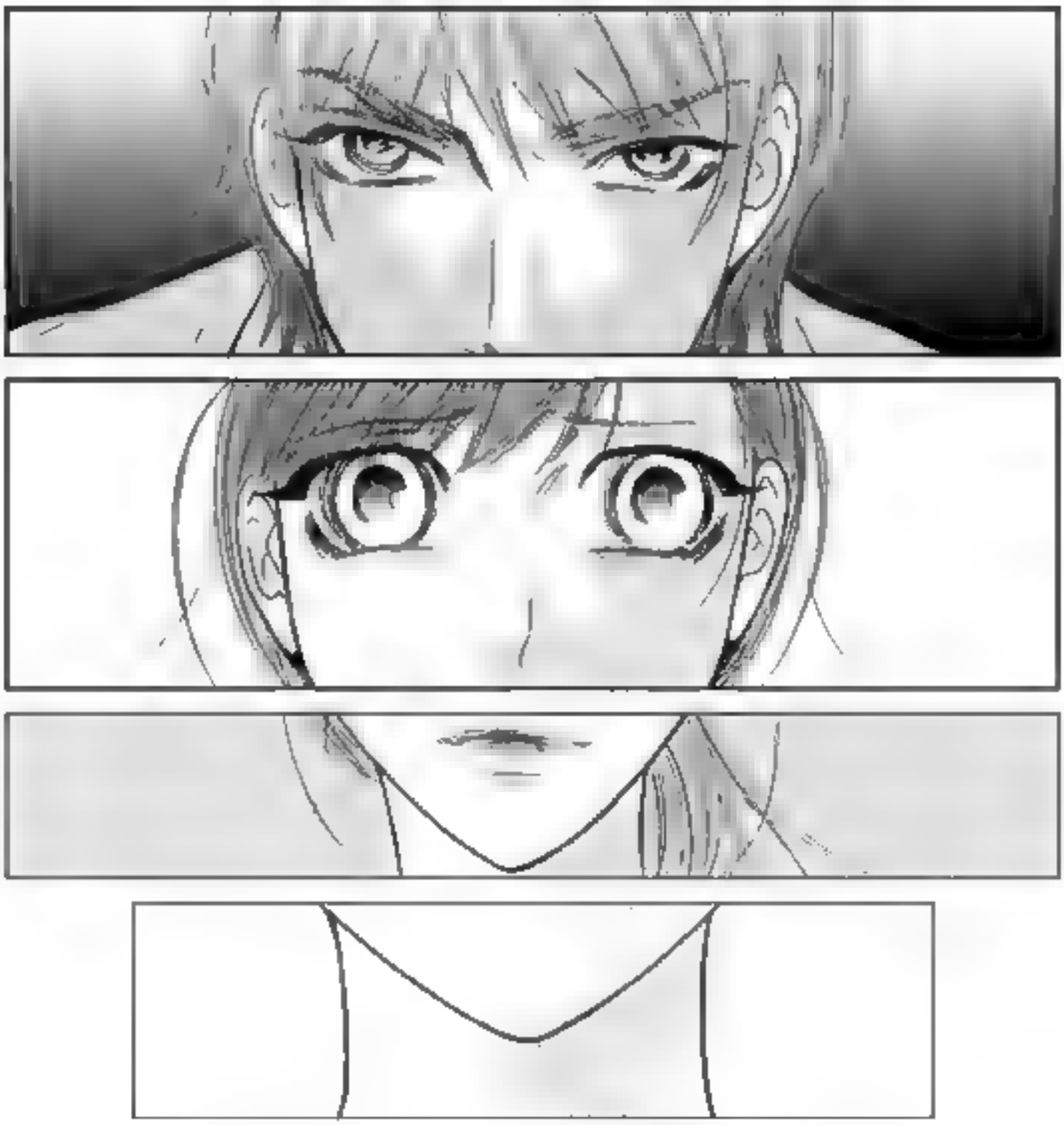

I'M
REALLY
I'M
REALLY NOT
THE CULPRIT
I REALLY DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT IT

WE HAVE EVIDENCE.
IT'S ALL A LIE!
YOU MEAN THIS WHOLE PILE OF EVIDENCE IS JUST A VAST CONSPIRACY? WHO WOULD DEVISE SUCH A THING?
LUIGI CALPETTI?
GOING ON [redacted] SPREES AND BLASTING PEOPLE WITH AUTOMATIC GUN FIRE IS WHAT MAFIAS DO.
THIS KIND OF SOPHISTICATED AND PROFESSIONAL SPY OPERATION IS BEYOND THEIR LITTLE BIRD BRAINS
SO THEN, PERHAPS YOU HAVE AN ENEMY?
BUT YOU DON'T YET POSSESS ANY DIRECT AUTHORITY IN POLITICS, ECONOMICS, OR IN ANY OTHER AREA
WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT THERE EXISTS NO ONE WHO BENEFITS FROM TAKING YOU OUT OF THE PICTURE
ARE THEY TRULY TARGETING ME?
WELL, THERE'S AN OLD SAYING, "IF YOU WANT TO BRING DOWN THE GENERAL, SHOOT THE HORSE HE'S RIDING."
IF THAT'S THE CASE, MY SINCERE APOLOGIES TO YOU.

...I'VE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD.
BUT IF THEY WANTED ME, THEY WOULD'VE WAITED UNTIL YOU BECAME QUEEN.
THAT WAY THEY COULD STRIKE A POLITICAL BLOW AT ME
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT TO FIND SOME OTHER EXPLANATION...
WOULD SOMEONE HAVE PLOTTED A CONSPIRACY THAT REQUIRES PREPOSTEROUS AMOUNTS OF FUNDING JUST TO STOP ME FROM MARRYING YOU?
FOR THAT ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE IT WASN'T YOU...
NOTHING ADDS UP JAY
AND I THOUGHT...
AND THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
THERE'S A CLEAR ANSWER VISIBLE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME
THERE'S AN ANSWER THAT CAN EXPLAIN ALL OF THIS VERY SIMPLY----.

WOOSH
YET, YOU'RE SAYING THIS OVERWHELMING MOUNTAIN OF EVIDENCE IS NOTHING BUT LIES AND THAT THE ONE THING YOU CAN OFFER, YOUR WORD, IS THE TRUTH?
I... I CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW THINGS HAPPENED..
BUT YES, I ONLY HAVE MY WORD.
IT'S NOT ME AND I'M NOT LYING!
ENOUGH OF YOUR IMPOSSIBLE ALIBIS!
JARTE,
I'M NOT... I'M REALLY NOT ..

AHH, THIS FEELS SO MUCH LIKE A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE.
IT WOULDN'T MAKE SENSE IF THIS WEREN'T A NIGHTMARE ..!
I WANT TO CONVINCE YOU...
BUT HOW? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE.
I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE THING I CAN SAY:
I'M NOT THE ONE. I'M REALLY NOT!

SOB..
SOB..
YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME...
AND THAT I WAS PRECIOUS TO YOU.
DO YOU BELIEVE I CAN BETRAY SOMEONE WHO CARES FOR ME SO MUCH AND IN THIS WORST POSSIBLE OF WAYS?
DO YOU TRULY THINK OF ME AS CAPABLE OF SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS?
AM I...
STOP!
DAMN IT DON'T CRY
STOP CRYING!

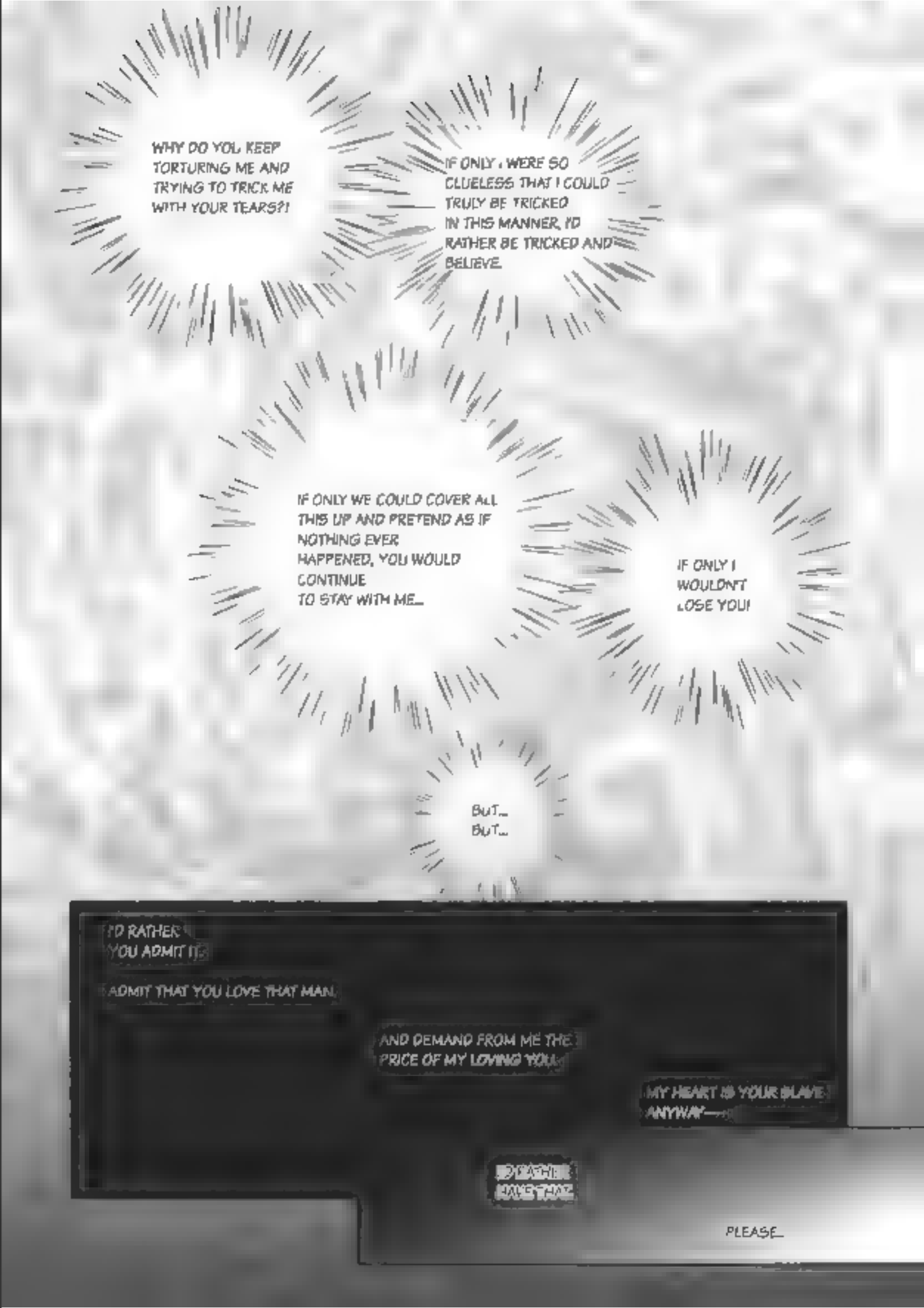
HOW MUCH MORE EVIDENCE WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SHOW YOU?
HOW MUCH MORE OF THOSE FAKE TEARS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEW FORTH FOR ME?
YOU LOVE CALPETTI!
I'M SURE YOU JUSTIFIED YOUR FOUL BETRAYAL AS A SACRIFICE FOR THE TRUE OBJECT OF YOUR LOVE.
AFTER ALL, YOU BELIEVE LOVE IS NOBLE AND LOFTY!
I'M SURE YOU THOUGHT YOUR BETRAYAL WAS BEAUTIFUL BECAUSE YOU WERE SACRIFICING FOR THE SAKE OF THE MAN YOU TRULY LOVED.
NO!
YOU EVEN TOLD ME THE WORST JE!
YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT TELL ME LIES EVER SINCE YOU REGAINED YOUR MEMORY!

YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE YOU?
YOU? SOMEONE WHO COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER ME AND REFUSED ME?
SOMEONE WHO LIED TO ME ABOUT SLEEPING WITH CALPETTI?
SOMEONE WHO THEN SEDUCED ME IN THE MOST LOVELY OF ALL MANNERS AND THEN NONCHALANTLY BETRAYED ME?
YOU USED ME WITH NO SHAME,
AND YOU SAY YOU LOVE ME...?!
AND NOW, YOU SIMPLY INSIST LIKE A LITTLE KID THAT ALL THIS IS A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING BECAUSE YOU'VE RUN OUT OF WAYS TO COOK UP MORE LIES!

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE?!
OH, MY GOD--,
PLOP

JARTE...
S...STOP!
GRP
JARTE, PLEASE PLEASE..
PLEASE... BELIEVE ME.

I LOVE HER SO MUCH THAT IT'S DRIVING ME MAD.
AHH, I LOVE THIS WOMAN.
I LOVE HER ENOUGH TO SWALLOW THIS FEROCIOUS HATRED WHOLE!
WHY DON'T YOU REALIZE, YOU DAMN WOMAN
THAT EVEN IN THIS MOMENT ALL I WANT IS TO PROTECT YOU!
AND HOW I'M STRUGGLING SO MUCH JUST TO DO THAT!


WHY DO YOU KEEP TORTURING ME AND TRYING TO TRICK ME WITH YOUR TEARS?!
IF ONLY I WERE SO CLUELESS THAT I COULD TRULY BE TRICKED IN THIS MANNER, I'D RATHER BE TRICKED AND BELIEVE.
IF ONLY WE COULD COVER ALL THIS UP AND PRETEND AS IF NOTHING EVER HAPPENED, YOU WOULD CONTINUE TO STAY WITH ME...
IF ONLY I WOULDN'T LOSE YOU!
BUT... BUT...
I'D RATHER YOU ADMIT IT.
ADMIT THAT YOU LOVE THAT MAN.
AND DEMAND FROM ME THE PRICE OF MY LOVING YOU.
MY HEART IS YOUR SLAVE ANYWAY—
DAICHI. HAVE THAT.
PLEASE...

STOP TRYING TO DECEIVE ME WITH YOUR LIES DISGUISED AS LOVE.
I LOVE YOU...
AND YOU LOVE ME, TOO!

YOU CRUEL BITCH.
DON'T SPEAK OF LOVE TO ME WITH YOUR FALSE TONGUE!

I SEE YOU.
DON'T
BELIEVE ME.
YOU
DON'T
BELIEVE
ME.
HAAH

S..,SOMEONE CONTACTED ME

THIS MAN SAID THAT HE KNEW ABOUT EVERYTHING

AND THAT I SHOULD COME FIND HIM ALONE IF I WANT TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE.

BUT HE ALSO SAID... THAT I WOULD DIE IF I CAME.

WHAT?
I HAVE NO CHOICE IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME ..
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
I KNOW YOU'RE IN A CORNER BUT DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS TAKING THINGS TOO FAR?
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT HORRIFYING EFFECTS EVEN YOUR MOST INCOHERENT LIES HAS ON MY HEART?
I KNOW. IT MUST BE HARD TO BELIEVE.
JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER EXCUSES I HAVE BEEN GIVING YOU.
NO, THIS IS THE WORST THIS CRAZY STORY !

BUT IT'S TRUE!
THIS IS THE LAST ..
IT'S REALLY THE LAST THING,
ONE LAST THING I WILL SAY TO YOU:
PLEASE BELIEVE ME.
PLEASE!
SAVE ME.

EVEN BACKED INTO A CORNER, YOU'RE RELENTLESS, THE LOWEST OF THE LOW.
DRRK
TAK
I'M BUSY.

OKAY
I SEE..
.. GOOD BYE.
YOUR HIGHNESS

IF YOU WILL ONLY BELIEVE ME WHEN YOU SEE MY LIFELESS BODY,
I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE ONLY THING I WILL HAVE TO SHOW YOU.

100% Perfect Girl

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SNAP
BAM
WHAM

I CAN'T GO ON
IF I LOSE YOU

I CAN'T DO IT

I CAN'T GO ON
IF YOU HATE ME

TO LIVE ON DESPISED
UNDER YOUR COLD STARE
WRETCHEDLY ABANDONED.

NO, I WON'T BE ABANDONED.
NEVER. I WON'T BE FORSAKEN.

CAN'T ENDURE

THE LONG,
LONELY HOURS OF
NOT HAVING YOU
IN MY LIFE
DON'T HAVE
THAT STRENGTH.

WITHOUT YOU
I CAN'T GO ON

THIS IS TOO MUCH.
I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE!!

TOMI
TOMI
WHAM
GLUG
HRRH

THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE IT DISGUSTS ME.
THAT FOOLISH GIRL.
SHE CAN'T BE UP TO SOMETHING STUPID AGAIN, CAN SHE?

SCRITCH

TAK

WOOOOOM

DAMN IT!
I SHOULDN'T
HAVE LET HER
JUST LEAVE
LIKE THAT!
KRAGSH

BEEP
HOYA,
WHERE IS
JAY AT THE
MOMENT?

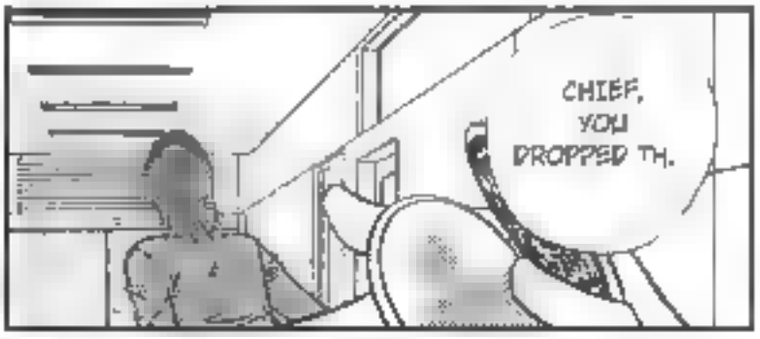
ACTUALLY...
WE LOST
TRACK OF...
LADY JAY'S...
WHEREABOUTS
A FEW MINUTES
AGO.

WHAT?
SHE WALKED OUT TO THE GARDEN. WE THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST GETTING SOME FRESH AIR.
YOU JUST LET HER WALK ON OUT?
I'M SORRY, SIRE. I'LL IMMEDIATELY...
FIND HER! FIND HER THIS MINUTE AND BRING HER TO ME!

SHE'S DISAPPEARED?
YOU FOOLS!

SAMEDI, ASSEMBLE A RECON TEAM IMMEDIATELY!
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

CLANG!


CHIEF, YOU DROPPED TH.

SNATCH

TAP
TAP
..GRETA
WHAT?
YOU REMEMBER THAT WOMAN WHO USED TO WORK AT THE ROYAL STAFF'S OFFICE...
...THE ONE FROM THAT SHOOTING INCIDENT?
YEAH, THE CHIEF HIMSELF SHOT HER.
I...I'M SORRY, YOUR HIGHNESS.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO ESCAPE THE GROUNDS ON FOOT BUT
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE HAD PREPARED A GETAWAY CAR AND USED THE WORKERS' GATE TO ESCAPE WITH LADY JAY

SUCH A SCHEME WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR LADY JAY TO HAVE PLANNED ALONE
SHE MUST TRULY BE IN COLLUSION WITH CALPETTI, JUST AS WE SUSPECTED
..NO..
ALL MY HEAVY REGRETS..
SINK EVEN DEEPER INSIDE MY HEART...
PARDON?
AND..
THAT'S... NOT IT.
SLOWLY MORPH INTO DREAD.

S. SIRE
A PACKAGE CAME FOR YOU.
IT'S A BIT STRANGE.
LADY JAY IS THE SENDER,
BUT THE HANDWRITING DOESN'T BELONG TO HER
WE ALREADY SCANNED IT AND DETERMINED THERE WAS NO BOMB
EVEN SO, IT'S RATHER UNSETTLING.

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
WOH...!

AH.
AH!

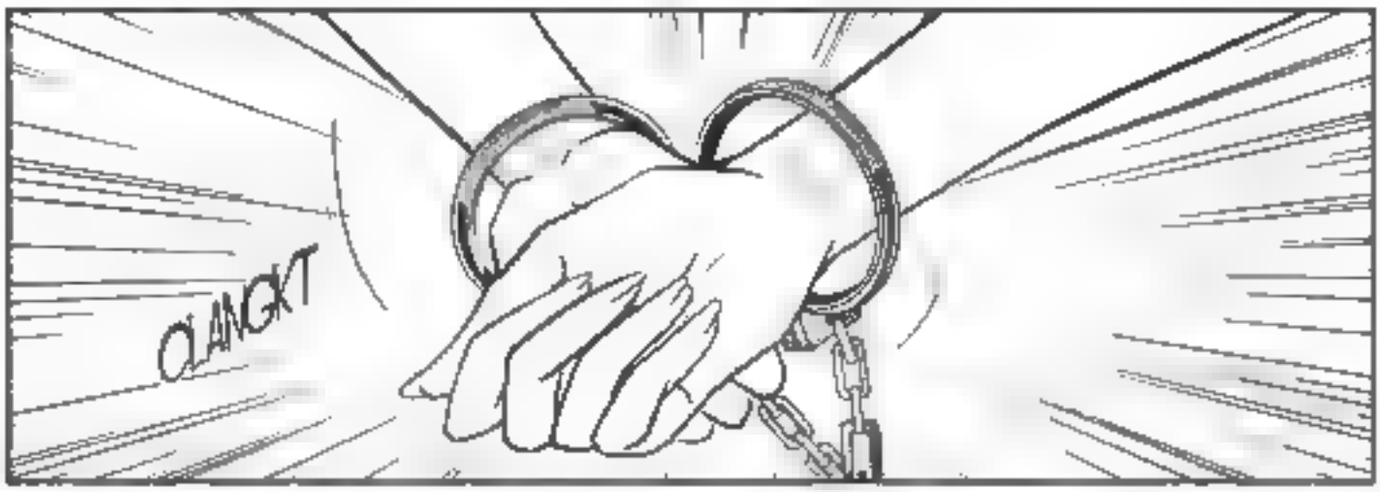
SHOULD I SAY WELCOME?
YOU'RE BRAVER THAN YOU LOOK, MISSY

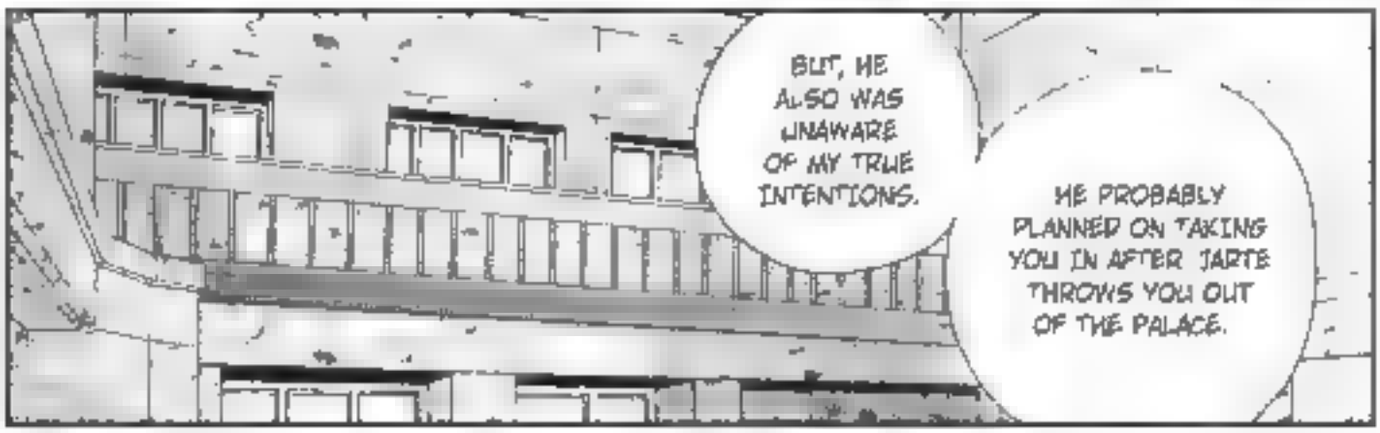
YEAH, I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED... I WALKED OUT OF JARTE'S ROOM AND ONE OF THE WORKERS APPROACHED ME AND TOLD ME HE'D BEEN WAITING FOR ME... THEN, SUDDENLY A CAR...
THEY DRAGGED ME INTO THE CAR AT THEIR RENDEZVOUS POINT AND...
HAVE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS ALL ALONG?

SEEING AS YOU'RE HERE, YOUR DEAR LOVER MUST'VE LET YOU DOWN AS I HAD EXPECTED

I WAS NEVER INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH THE IDIOTIC RUSSIAN MAFIA OR KAMORA ASSOCIATION.
I JUST USED THEM TO FRAME YOU.

EVEN CALPETTI HELPED ME TO SNATCH YOU AWAY FROM HIS HIGHNESS.


CLANG!


BUT, HE ALSO WAS UNAWARE OF MY TRUE INTENTIONS.
HE PROBABLY PLANNED ON TAKING YOU IN AFTER JARTE THROWS YOU OUT OF THE PALACE.

HOWEVER, MY TRUE GOAL WAS SIMPLY TO ROB THE EMPEROR OF ROINNE OF HIS HEART FOREVER...
...WHICH I'M AFRAID INVOLVES KILLING YOU.

I'M GOING TO HAND YOU OVER TO ANDREKOV.
I CAN PICTURE HIS FACE NOW GOING INSANE WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT ALL HIS AMBITIONS ENDED IN SMOKE BECAUSE OF ONE LITTLE BITCH.
I MAY BE A COLD-BLOODED SNAKE, BUT I TELL YOU TRULY, LADY JAY I'M NOT THRILLED ABOUT WITNESSING THE EVILS HE'S GOT PLANNED FOR YOU.
THE THING IS, THE CRUELER HE IS TO YOU,
THE GRANDER THE GIFT YOU'LL MAKE WHEN I GIVE YOU BACK TO THE EMPEROR.
BAPT-

...LISTEN UP, JARTE MARX.
YOU SEE, WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU IS SOMETHING YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGET FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
I'M CLARENCE IAN. REMEMBER ME? WE'VE MET BEFORE.
HOWEVER, YOU COULDN'T TELL WHO I REALLY WAS, YOU SEE, I...
JUST TELL ME ONE THING.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THESE HORRIBLE THINGS TO ME?
WHAT DID JARTE. WHAT WRONGS HAVE WE EVER DONE TO YOU?

WEL... I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW.

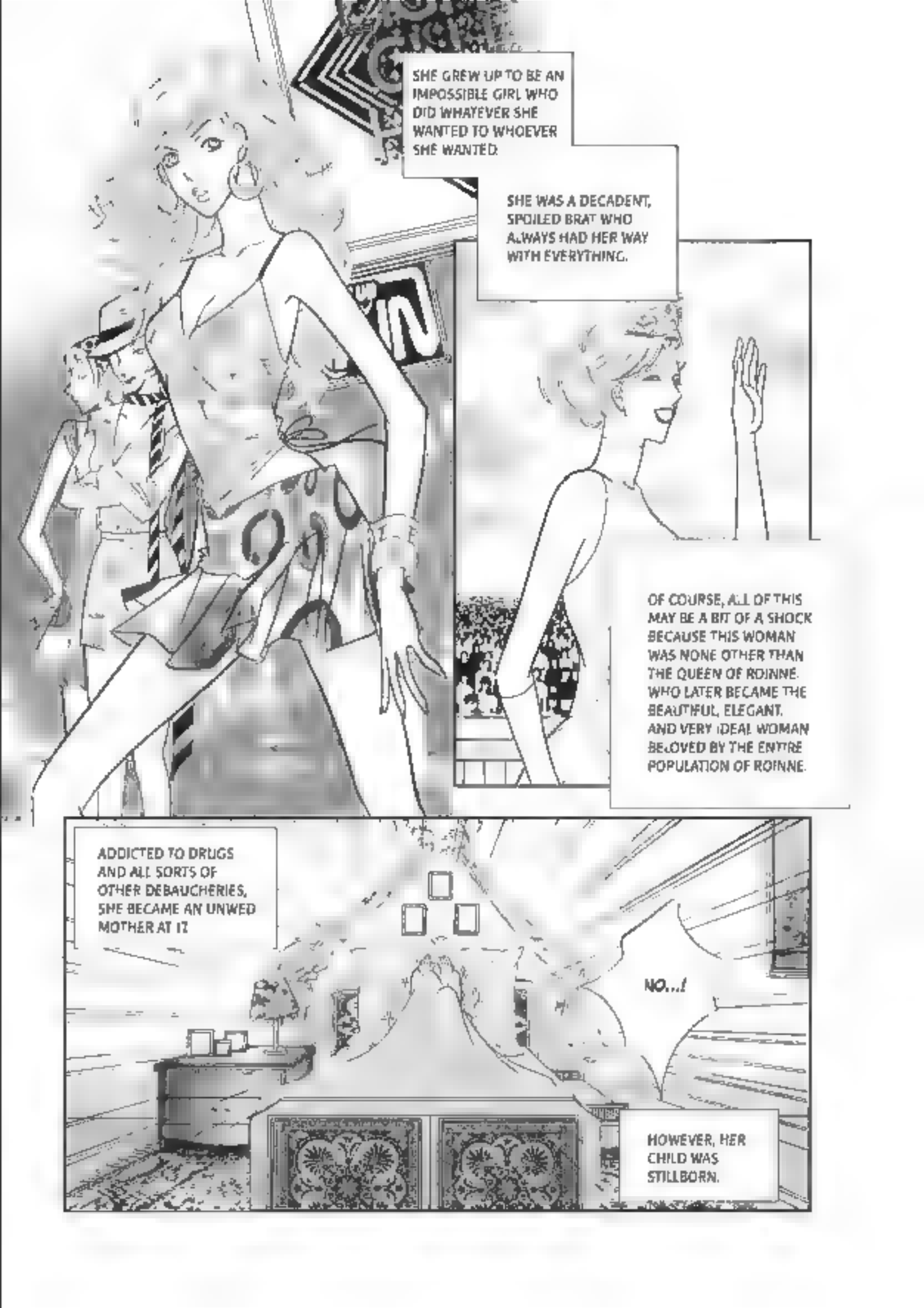
I'LL TELL YOU A STORY... FROM A LONG TIME AGO...

ROXANNE MAILLE WAS BORN IN 955 IN PARIS.

SHE WAS BORN TO A HISTORIC BELGIAN FAMILY. WITH THE FAMILY'S BUSINESS IN FINANCE AND REAL ESTATE SHE LACKED NOTHING FINANCIALLY.

SOMETIMES GROWING UP AS THE PRECIOUS ONLY CHILD OF AN EXTREMELY WEALTHY FAMILY CAN BE A DISADVANTAGE

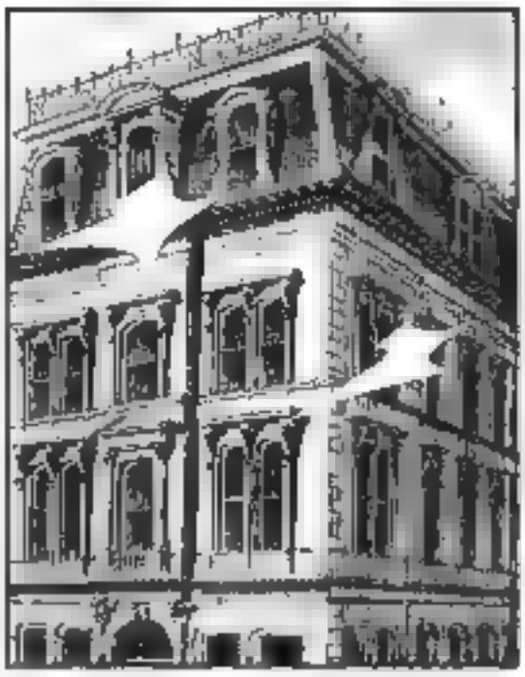
BECAUSE EVEN IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT LACKED NOTHING, SHE GREW UP TWISTED.


SHE GREW UP TO BE AN IMPOSSIBLE GIRL WHO DID WHATEVER SHE WANTED TO WHOEVER SHE WANTED.
SHE WAS A DECADENT, SPOILED BRAT WHO ALWAYS HAD HER WAY WITH EVERYTHING.
OF COURSE, ALL OF THIS MAY BE A BIT OF A SHOCK BECAUSE THIS WOMAN WAS NONE OTHER THAN THE QUEEN OF ROINNE. WHO LATER BECAME THE BEAUTIFUL, ELEGANT, AND VERY IDEAL WOMAN BELOVED BY THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF ROINNE.
ADDICTED TO DRUGS AND ALL SORTS OF OTHER DEBAUCHERIES, SHE BECAME AN UNWED MOTHER AT 17
NO...!
HOWEVER, HER CHILD WAS STILLBORN.

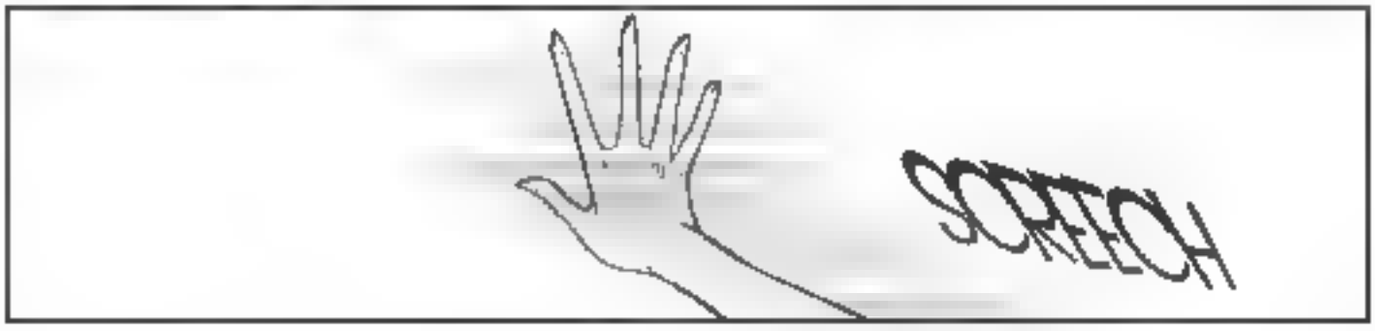
BUT, ACTUALLY...

ROXANNE'S PARENTS, CONCERNED ABOUT HER FUTURE, SECRETLY SENT HER BABY TO AN ORPHANAGE.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A FORTUNATE THING THAT ROXANNE DIDN'T KNOW THE TRUTH UNTIL THE END.

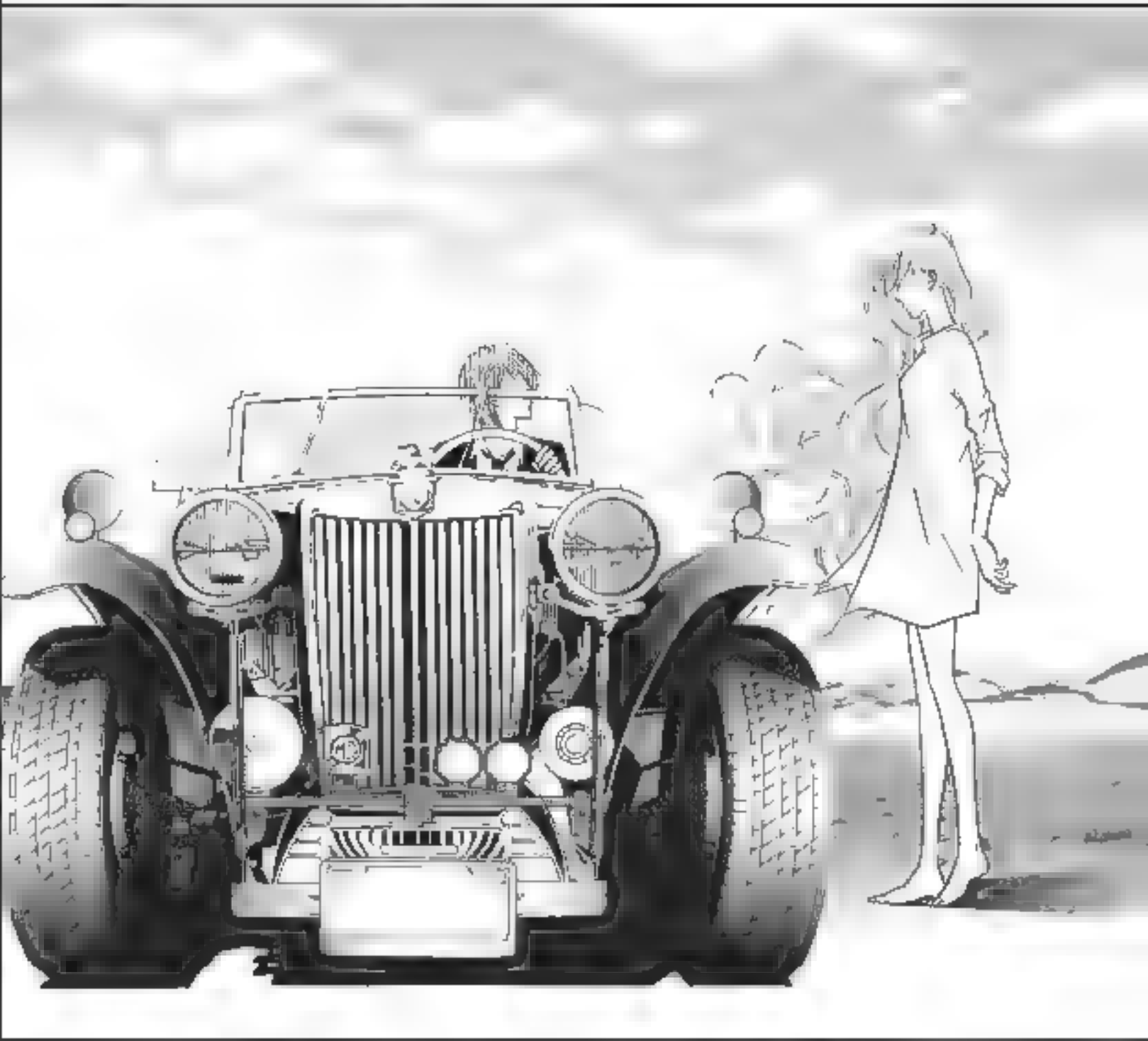


HER LIFE IN A DOWNWARD SPIRAL, SHE WAS FORCED INTO A REHAB CENTER WHICH SHE EVENTUALLY ESCAPED. SHE HITCHHIKED A RIDE IN SOME MAN'S CAR AT THE FRENCH BORDER NEAR MARSEILLE.

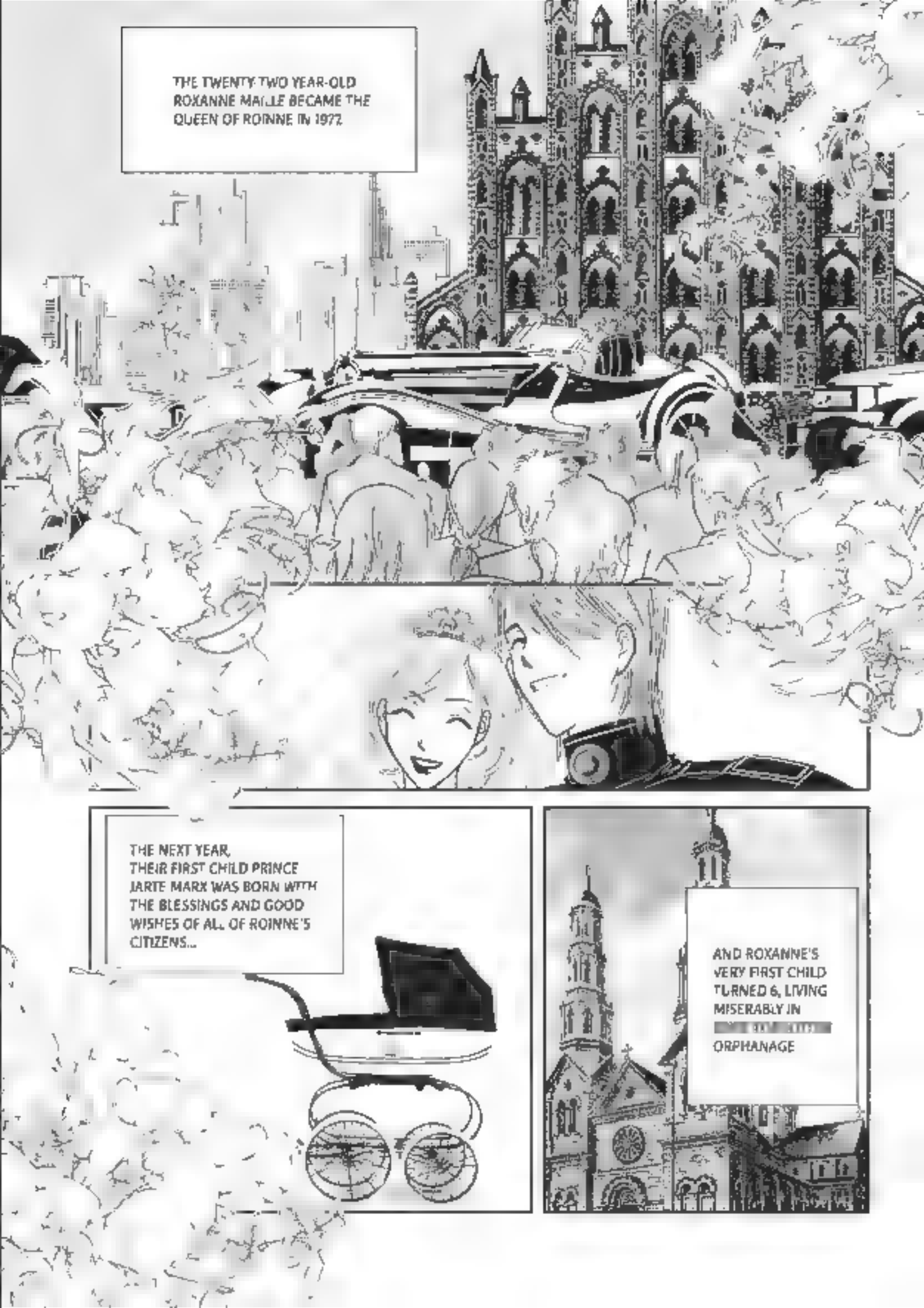


HAGGARD EYES,
BONY BODY,
DISHEVELLED HAIR
BAREFEET SCARRED.
PERHAPS FATE IS THE ONLY WAY TO EXPLAIN WHY THE MAN FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT WITH SUCH A HOPELESS WRECK OF A WOMAN.
IN HER DEVASTATED EYES, HE FOUND WHAT HE HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR ALL HIS LIFE

THAT'S HOW SHE MET HER FUTURE HUSBAND FERDINAND MARX III, THE EMPEROR OF ROINNE



NO ONE. NOT EVEN ROXANNE HERSELF, UNDERSTOOD WHY THE EMPEROR'S LOVE FOR HER WAS SO UNCONDITIONAL.
WITH HIS TENDER LOVE OVERFLOWING WITH INFINITE PATIENCE, SHE GRADUALLY CHANGED.
ONLY HE KNEW HOW PAINFUL IT WAS TO LIVE WITHOUT HER LOVE RETURNED.
TO WAIT UNTIL SHE FINALLY ACCEPTED HIM.
UNTIL SHE FINALLY RETURNED HIS LOVE
THE DAY SHE TRULY KISSED HIM WITH PASSION FOR THE FIRST TIME, ALL THE TORTURED MOMENTS HE LIVED MELTED AWAY.


THE TWENTY TWO YEAR-OLD ROXANNE MAILLE BECAME THE QUEEN OF ROINNE IN 1972
THE NEXT YEAR, THEIR FIRST CHILD PRINCE JARTE MARX WAS BORN WITH THE BLESSINGS AND GOOD WISHES OF ALL OF ROINNE'S CITIZENS...
AND ROXANNE'S VERY FIRST CHILD TURNED 6, LIVING MISERABLY IN [redacted] ORPHANAGE

CREAK
HOW ABOUT IT, ARE YOU SORRY?
WILL YOU BEHAVE NOW?
GOD IS MERCIFUL AND OPENS HIS ARMS TO NAUGHTY BOYS EVEN LIKE YOU.
THIS KIND MAN HAS COME TO TAKE YOU TO A NEW HOME.
CLARENCE.

100% Perfect Girl

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DMITRI EWAN
HE WAS AN IMMENSELY WEALTHY ENGLISH TRADER WITH BLEAK EYES AND A STOUT FRAME
IT SEEMED THE YOUNG CLARENCE'S FUTURE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER WHEN HE BECAME THIS WEALTHY MAN'S ADOPTED SON.
BUT
DMITRI EWAN WAS A SADIST.

THWAP
A BAD BOY LIKE YOU SHOULD BE SPANKED.
GRINDING HIS TEETH IN PAIN. HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF TIMES, THE BOY KEPT REPEATING THESE WORDS SILENTLY WITHIN:
I'M GONNA KILL THAT BASTARD SOME DAY...

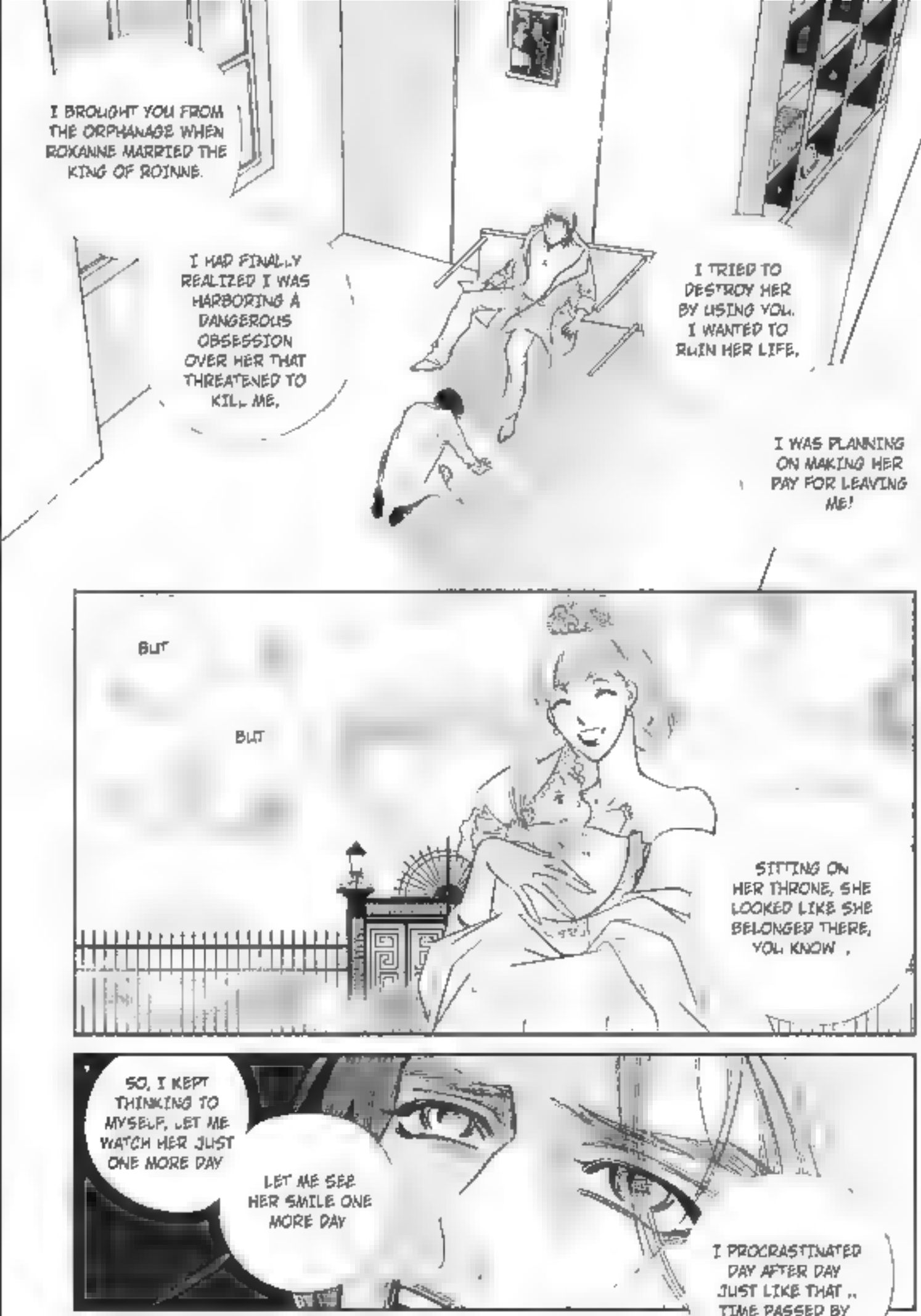
WHEN CLARENCE WAS 12, DMITR. BROUGHT A GIRL WHO HAD JUST TURNED 4. HER NAME WAS GRETA.
DMITRI'S VIOLENCE SOON TURNED TOWARDS GRETA, BUT CLARENCE TRIED DEFLECTING DMITRI'S WRATH BY CONSTANT IRRITATION AND PROVOCATION THE WAY ALL CHILDREN KNOW HOW TO DO WHEN NECESSARY.
THE LITTLE GIRL, NOW HIS BABY SISTER, AWOKE HIS PROTECTIVE INSTINCTS,
AND THAT WAS THE ONLY WARMTH THAT COULD BE FOUND IN HIS BARREN BEING.

THOUGH HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN AN ABUSIVE ENVIRONMENT, HE DEVELOPED QUICKLY...
AND WHEN HE WAS 15, HE COULD FINALLY PHYSICALLY DOMINATE HIS FOSTER FATHER.
OFF!

YOU SPITEFUL BASTARD--!
HAAH
YOU GREW UP TO BE A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE MONSTER!
BUT DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF.
YOU ONLY WON TODAY BECAUSE...
I'M IN SHOCK FROM THE BAD NEWS THAT...
SHE... DIED TODAY.
I HEARD . A BULLET PIERCED HER HEART, AND SHE DIED

WHO DIED? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ROXANNE ID'AREGARTE... THE QUEEN OF ROINNE.
THE WOMAN WHO GAVE BIRTH TO YOU. YOUR TRUE MOTHER, I MEAN.
THAT WOMAN'S... MY...
MY MOTHER?
YOU, YOU KNEW WHO MY MOTHER WAS ALL THIS TIME?!
OF COURSE, I DID.
I WAS THAT LITTLE WENCH'S LOVER. SHE WAS SUCH A WILD MARE 15 YEARS AGO.

YOU'RE STILL NOT GETTING IT? I AM...
YOUR REAL FATHER.
THAT'S BULLSHIT.
YOU'RE CRAZY, YOU'RE INSANE!!
YOU STILL CAN'T TELL JUST BY LOOKING IN THE MIRROR? YOU CAN'T TELL HOW MUCH YOU AND I LOOK ALIKE?
FLOP


I BROUGHT YOU FROM THE ORPHANAGE WHEN ROXANNE MARRIED THE KING OF ROINNE.
I HAD FINALLY REALIZED I WAS HARBORING A DANGEROUS OBSESSION OVER HER THAT THREATENED TO KILL ME.
I TRIED TO DESTROY HER BY USING YOU. I WANTED TO RUIN HER LIFE.
I WAS PLANNING ON MAKING HER PAY FOR LEAVING ME!
BUT
BUT
SITTING ON HER THRONE, SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE BELONGED THERE, YOU KNOW .
SO, I KEPT THINKING TO MYSELF, LET ME WATCH HER JUST ONE MORE DAY
LET ME SEE HER SMILE ONE MORE DAY
I PROCRASTINATED DAY AFTER DAY JUST LIKE THAT .. TIME PASSED BY

BUT TODAY, THE DAMN BITCH DIED..
NEVER GIVING ME A CHANCE TO TAKE REVENGE ON HER
AS MUCH AS I HATED HER, I HATED YOU.
I HATED YOU FOR HAVING HER EYES
I WANTED TO ERASE HER EYES OFF OF YOU.
I MUST'VE DONE A GOOD JOB AT IT
BECAUSE RIGHT NOW YOUR EYES LOOK EXACTLY LIKE MINE.
CAN THIS MADNESS
HAHAHAHAHA
BE CALLED A KIND OF LOVE?

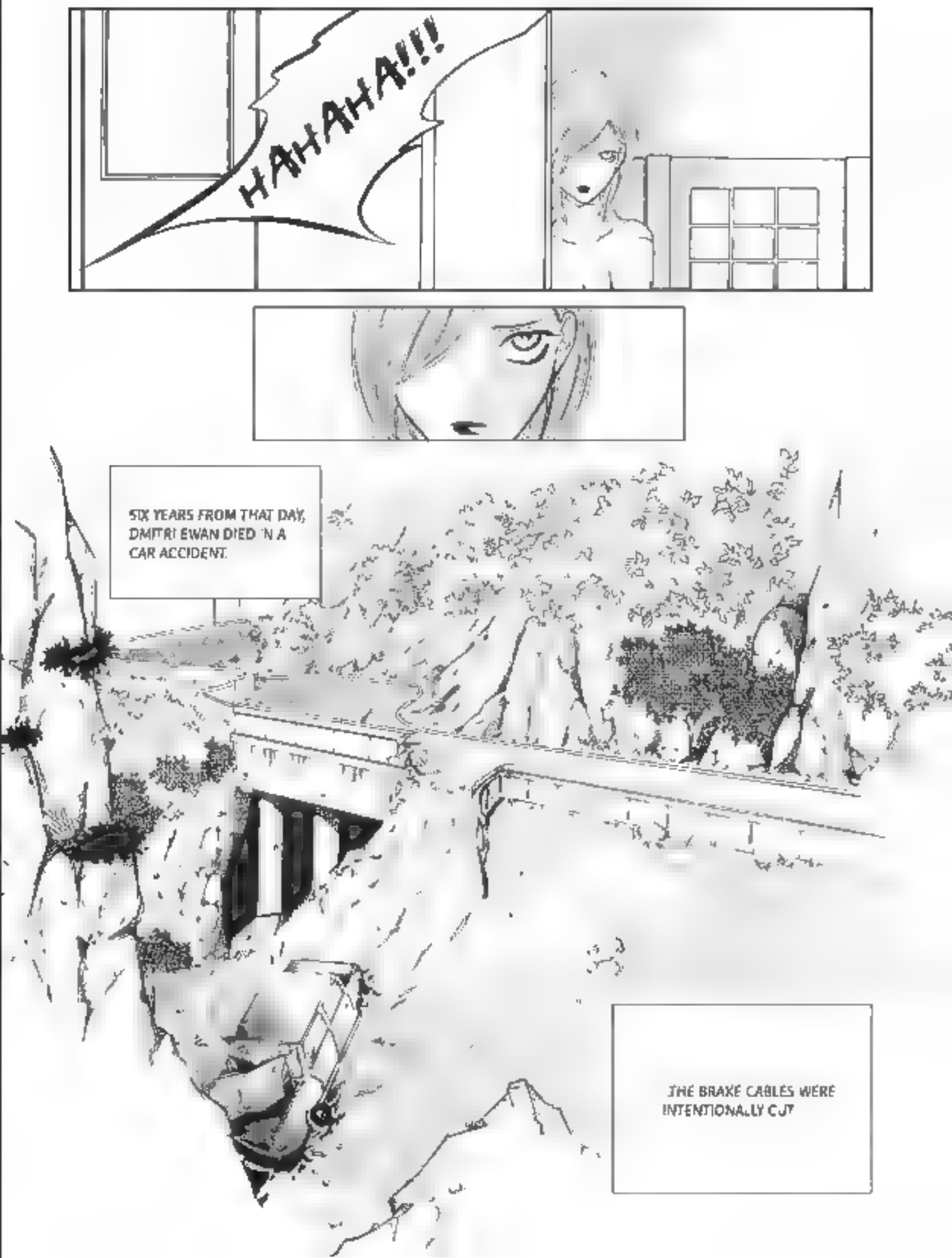
WH...WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TOTTER
I'M LEAVING
I DON'T WANT TO BE NEAR YOU... NOT EVEN FOR ONE MORE DAY
I KNOCKED YOU DOWN WITH MY OWN FISTS!
NOW YOU CAN'T KEEP ME LOCKED UP IN HERE!!
PBT

SO WHAT, YOU'RE GOING TO ROAM AROUND THE BACK ALLEYS MUGGING PEOPLE?
ALL MY FORTUNE WILL SOMEDAY BECOME YOURS IF YOU REMAIN MY SON.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR A MAN TO DESIRE HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD TO INHERIT HIS ESTATE!
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER THE HELL YOU WANT WITH YOUR DAMN MONEY!

SO
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE
AND DESERT ME .
JUST LIKE HER?
WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS WHATEVER THE HELL I DO?!
YOU'RE THE ONLY THING SHE LEFT ME!

YOU BROUGHT THIS UPON YOURSELF!
STOMP
WHAT ABOUT GRETA?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH HER?

SHE'S JUST MY DAUGHTER FROM SOME WOMAN I TOOK MY PLEASURE FROM.
SHE'S YOUR REAL STEP SISTER.
IN ANY CASE, I DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS CONCERNING HER MOTHER.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU AND GRETA ARE DIFFERENT TO ME.
WHAT DO YOU THINK I'LL DO TO HER AFTER HER PROTECTION ABANDONS HER?
AFTER ALL, THE GIRL HAS NO REAL MEANING TO ME WHATSOEVER.
SON OF A BITCH!


HAHAHA!!!
SIX YEARS FROM THAT DAY, DMITRI EWAN DIED IN A CAR ACCIDENT.
THE BRAKE CABLES WERE INTENTIONALLY CUT

HIS COLOSSAL FORTUNE WAS INHERITED BY HIS ADOPTED SON CLARENCE EWAN WHO HAD FAITHFULLY LEARNED THE PRACTICES OF HIS PREDECESSOR.
THE POLICE CONSIDERED CLARENCE THE PRIME SUSPECT AND THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED HIM. IN THE END, THEY COULDN'T FIND ANY EVIDENCE AND WERE FORCED TO BITTERLY WITHDRAW THEIR INVESTIGATION.
CLARENCE NEVER TOLD A SOUL THAT AT THAT TIME A MERE 13 YEAR-OLD GRETA WAS ENGROSSED IN A CAR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR GUIDE.
AND 5 YEARS AFTER THAT, AFTER THE KING OF ROINNE PASSED AWAY, J. MARX III ASCENDED HIS THRONE AT THE EARLY AGE OF 20.

THREE YEARS INTO HIS REIGN, JARTE MARX III VISITED ENGLAND AS A NATIONAL DIPLOMAT,

OH, RIGHT THERE IS SOMEONE I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU.

CHAIRMAN EWAN, PLEASE PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO HIS HIGHNESS, KING OF ROINNE.

AND HE MEETS CLARENCE EWAN, WHO HAD ABOUT THAT TIME BECOME A V.I.P. AND MAJOR PLAYER IN ENGLAND'S ECONOMIC SCENE.

THU-THUMP

IT'S MY PLEASURE.

IS THIS HIM?

IS THIS... THE CHOSEN SON OF THE QUEEN?

THU-THUMP

THIS YOUNG MAN SHINED SO BRIGHTLY IN THE SUNLIGHT AS IF HE WAS THE SON OF LADY LUCK HERSELF
MR. CLARENCE EWAN.
HE WORE A SHAMELESS FACE, IGNORANT OF THE SINS HIS PARENTS BORE ON THEIR SHOULDERS. IT WAS A FACE THAT PROCLAIMED THERE WAS NOT ONE FLAW, NOT EVEN A FAINT BLEMISH IN HIS ENTIRE LIFE.
HIS BEARING PROCLAIMED THAT HE HAD NO DOUBTS THAT LUCK WOULD ALWAYS BE ON HIS SIDE!!

I'M HONORED, YOUR HIGHNESS.
HMM. THIS IS OUR FIRST FORMAL INTRODUCTION, YES?
UNFORTUNATELY I HAVEN'T HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO HAVE YOUR AUDIENCE UNTIL TODAY SIRE
STRANGE. FOR SOME REASON, YOU LOOK FAMILIAR
YOU SEEM FAMILIAR, AS THOUGH WE'VE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
YOU SEEM LIKE A FINE FELLOW.

AT THAT MOMENT...
THE BLOOD OF THE SAME MOTHER FLOWED INSIDE HIS BODY AND MINE
I COULD FEEL THAT BLOOD BOIL UP AND LURCH PAINFULLY INSIDE ME.
WITH A DESIRE SO INTENSE THAT IT MADE ME QUIVER WITH ECSTASY
WANTED TO KILL HIM

NEXT YEAR
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN MY ACCEPTANCE LETTER
FROM THIS DAY ON, I'M OFFICIALLY A CIVIL SERVANT OF THE ROINNE PALACE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO...!
FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS, YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT SEARCH FOR THAT MAN'S VULNERABILITY IN ORDER TO KILL HIM.
BUT YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT, HAVE YOU, CLARENCE?
AS FOR ME, I'LL BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH HIM AS ONE OF HIS AIDES.
I'LL FIND IT FOR YOU, THE WEAK SPOT OF THAT ROYAL FOOL

THIS IS VENGEANCE, GRETA.
HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
YOU'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT... NO, YOU'RE THE ONE AND ONLY PRECIOUS PERSON IN THE WORLD TO ME, CLARENCE.
JUST AS YOU WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR ME, I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
...
SLASH
IF NECESSARY, I COULD PROBABLY GET RID OF HIM MYSELF WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES.
I WON'T LET YOU GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY!
IT'S OKAY.

...IT'S NOT LIKE IT'LL BE THE FIRST TIME FOR ME TO KILL SOMEONE, YOU KNOW.
TAKE KWANDI WITH YOU. I'LL HELP YOU SNEAK INTO THE PALACE.
GRETA, MY HALF SISTER.
SHE WAS...
THIS IS JUST FOR GATHERING INTEL. WHEN YOU'RE DONE, YOU'LL WASH YOUR HANDS OF THIS MATTER, OKAY?
SHE WAS THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO TAUGHT ME ABOUT DEVOTION.